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Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund

Report on the first and second regular sessions and annual session of 2000

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Part One
First regular session of 2000

Held at United Nations Headquarters from 31 January to 3 February 2000

I. Organization of the session

A. Opening of the session

Election of officers for 2000

1. Elected at the pre-Board meeting held at United Nations Headquarters on 17 January 2000, the officers of the Executive Board for the year 2000 are as follows:

President:
H.E. Mr. Anwarul Karim Chowdhury (Bangladesh)

Vice-Presidents:
Ms. Lala Ibrahimova (Azerbaijan)
H.E. Mr. Alberto Salamanca (Bolivia)
Mr. Luc Schillings (Netherlands)
H.E. Mr. Mubarak Hussein Rahmtalla (Sudan)

Opening statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Executive Director

2. The President welcomed all participants to the first session of the Executive Board in the new millennium — a time when there was a greater expectation of, and increased need for, UNICEF to make a real difference in the lives of millions of children around the world. In that connection, he stressed the importance of continued regular and substantive contacts between the secretariat and the Board to ensure the continuation and further improvement of the effectiveness and efficiency of UNICEF. The work of the Board in 2000 was pivotal in guiding UNICEF to prepare for the special session of the General Assembly in 2001 to take stock of the pledges made to the children of the world 10 years ago at the World Summit for Children. The President also spoke about the organization's two greatest strengths — its excellent and dedicated staff, and the richness and relevance of its programmes. In closing, he paid a special tribute Jim Grant, who "had been instrumental in many of the meaningful programmes of the last decade", and in many that UNICEF would be following up in 2001. (See E/ICEF/2000/CRP.1 for the full text of his statement.)

3. In her opening statement, the Executive Director thanked the Deputy Executive Director for standing in for her on the first day of the session as she had been attending the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, where UNICEF had helped to mark the formal launch of the Children's Challenge, the inaugural initiative of the newly formed Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI). She recognized the new Bureau members and formally presented the two new Deputy Executive Directors, Kul Gautam, for Alliances and Resources, and André Roberfroid, for Programme and Strategic Planning. The Executive Director spoke about the encouraging signs to make children's rights a reality in deed as well as in law, and stressed that where UNICEF faced daunting developmental and humanitarian challenges to survival and well-being, the organization's priorities remained firmly anchored in health and nutrition, the protection of children from abuse and exploitation, basic education, and immediate access to clean water and adequate sanitation. The successes of UNICEF had grown out of its recognition of the need to focus on the well-being of the "whole child", which made it possible for

the organization to emerge as a moral force for children the world over, achieving triumphs that were unimaginable only a few decades ago. With the Board's help, she concluded, "UNICEF would stay that course in this fresh and daunting new century". (See E/ICEF/2000/CRP.2 for the full text of her statement.

B. Adoption of the agenda

4. The agenda, timetable and organization of work of the session, as contained in documents E/ICEF/2000/2 and Corr.1, was adopted. The agenda contained the following items:

Item 1: Opening of the session

(b) Statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Executive Director

Item 2: Adoption of the provisional agenda and timetable and organization of work

Item 3: Report of the Executive Director (Part I): Annual report to the Economic and Social Council

Item 4: Joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNICEF and the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund (UNDP/UNFPA) and the World Food Programme (WFP)

Item 5: Multi-year funding framework (MYFF)

Item 6: Funding meeting

Item 7: Private Sector Division (PSD) work plan and proposed budget for 2000

Item 8: Programme matters:

(a) Country notes

(b) Recommendations for additional regular resources for approved country programmes

Item 9: Report on the second meeting of the World Health Organization (WHO)/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health (CCH)

Item 11: Other matters

Item 12: Closing of the session: remarks by the Executive Director and the President of the Executive Board

5. In accordance with rule 50.2 and the annex of the Rules of Procedure, the Secretary of the Executive Board announced that 68 observer delegations had submitted credentials for the session. In addition, three United Nations bodies, two specialized agencies, four non-governmental organizations (NGOs), four National Committees for UNICEF, Palestine, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies had also submitted credentials.

II. Deliberations of the Executive Board

A. Private Sector Division work plan and proposed budget for 2000

6. The Executive Board had before it the PSD work plan and proposed budget for 2000 (E/ICEF/2000/AB/L.1). The report was introduced by the Director, PSD, who also presented the highlights of PSD performance and activities during 1999 as well as income trends and PSD strategies for 2000. These included a primary emphasis on private sector fund-raising, further revitalization of the cards business, building on corporate alliances, focused investments in the Nordic markets and implementation of pilot projects in electronic commerce.

7. The majority of the delegations which took the floor supported the work plan and proposed budget. At the same time, some of them expressed concern that the medium-term projections for card sales were too optimistic. The Director thanked Board members for acknowledging the role of greeting card operations in establishing the UNICEF brand as a genuine household name in most of the world. He also explained that the medium-term forecasts were based on the current and projected future market potential.

8. A number of issues raised by delegations dealt with the format of the work plan and proposed budget document. Although the consensus was that the document had improved significantly in recent years, there was still room for increased transparency. For example, two delegations stressed the need for the document to include an assessment of the scale of risks on income projections, while another suggested the inclusion of income trends split between National Committees and field offices.

9. One speaker enquired about the possibility of having the Executive Board review the PSD work plan and proposed budget before the start of the fiscal year. The Director responded that the proposal had to be thoroughly reviewed, taking into account all pros and cons, and specifically highlighting that the comparative basis for the work plan would be less reliable as an earlier submission would lack the accurate information on the status of the current year's activities.

10. In response to a question raised about expanding UNICEF card and product sales and fund-raising activities to new markets, the Director said that PSD was always ready to explore possibilities for income generation and would consider all serious proposals from UNICEF regional and country offices. A decision to enter a specific market would be made based solely on the potential return on investment and general business viability.

11. The representative of the Standing Group of National Committees noted that as the principal partners of PSD, the National Committees shared the concern about reductions in income, citing, therefore, the need for new markets. This would also present new opportunities for growth. The representative noted the increased involvement of the Executive Board in terms of support.

12. Responding to a question about whether the partnership with FIFA could cloud the image of UNICEF in view of the known use of child labour in the manufacture of soccer balls, the Director informed that this partnership came to fruition through the initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General and was deemed to open new avenues for UNICEF to promote its goals and principals, including those against the

exploitation of children. The Director also stated that FIFA was aware of the situation and wanted to cooperate with UNICEF to alleviate the situation. (See annex II, decision 2000/1, for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board.)

B. Programme matters

Introduction

13. The Director, Programme Division, presented the 18 country notes for new programmes of cooperation to begin in January 2001. They were before the Board for comments, which would shared with the relevant field offices and taken into account in the preparation of the final country programme recommendations (CPRs). He also introduced the document containing recommendations for approval of additional regular resources for 10 country programmes for which the balances of approved regular resources were insufficient to fund the programmes to the end of their cycles and the one-year extension of the current programme cycles of two country programmes (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.19).

14. He said that the country notes had been prepared in close consultation with national partners, and drew on the findings of the latest situation analyses of children and women, the outcomes of mid-term reviews (MTRs), lessons learned and evaluations of the current programmes of cooperation. They represented a broad range of strategic approaches, which reflected the widely varying circumstances of children and women in the different countries. They also reflected major national priorities and the strategic goals of the United Nations system as expressed through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), where it existed, and incorporated aspects of a human rights-based approach to programme cooperation. In addition, the country notes had a stronger focus on children at different stages of the life cycle in anticipation of the expected direction of the new Global Agenda for Children, and set out the specific UNICEF support to the sector-wide approach (SWAP) and sector reforms, where these had been introduced by national partners.

15. The Director pointed out that the country notes incorporated a two-pronged approach, combining support to policy development and service interventions on a national scale with a direct focus on highly marginalized or impoverished families and communities. In conclusion, he noted two critical areas where, through the new programmes of cooperation, UNICEF aimed to accelerate its efforts to assist children and women whose rights were most under threat: the fight against HIV/AIDS; and the incorporation of programme components and collaborative United Nations system activities aimed at strengthening capacity and preparedness of responses to instability and crisis situations.

16. A number of Board members commented that the country notes varied in quality, suggesting greater attention to overall consistency and a standardized approach to their presentation. Some country notes presented too wide a scope of intended areas of intervention in relation to expected resources and UNICEF office capacity, reflecting an inadequate level of prioritization. The Director expressed appreciation for the comments, adding that the secretariat had established guidelines in an effort to improve both consistency and quality. He assured delegations that the secretariat would revisit this issue to respond more effectively to their concerns.

17. The more systematic adoption of a human rights-based approach to programme cooperation in some of the country notes was welcomed by a number of Board members. An increased emphasis, where appropriate, on rights-based policy dialogue and support to child rights-conscious policy formulation was also welcomed. However, some speakers noted the continued challenge to UNICEF to define, in more specific ways, how a human rights-based approach impacted programme strategies and content. It was also suggested that country programme documents might provide an indication, where possible, of those priority issues relating to children's and women's rights that were expected to be pursued through policy dialogue and advocacy. The Director explained that a human rights-based approach was an all-encompassing framework and that UNICEF was dealing with the underlying causes. UNICEF, he said, viewed children not only as recipients, but also as participants and partners in the approach.

18. The increased focus on addressing the effects of HIV/AIDS on children and women, in a rights perspective, was also welcomed. One speaker wanted to know what UNICEF was doing to assist AIDS orphans and to protect newborns of HIV-infected mothers. This issue, replied the Director, would be elaborated on in greater detail by the Regional Directors in their presentations.

19. Concern was expressed about the weak analysis of overall international development cooperation, especially in the social development areas, as well as a lack of analysis of the implications of the broader context of development assistance for the strategic priorities of UNICEF cooperation, in a number of the country notes. The more specific analysis of partnerships in areas of UNICEF support, including with other United Nations agencies, the World Bank and bilateral organizations, was also seen to be inadequate in some cases. The importance of reflecting partnerships at the country-level was noted by the Director, who also acknowledged the need to reflect this more accurately in the country notes. He assured that these would be better reflected in the CPRs being submitted to the Board in September.

20. Several Board members commented that the role of UNICEF in relation to ongoing national SWAPs, and sector reform and sector investment programmes was not clearly identified or explained in some of the relevant country notes. There was now a strong expectation that UNICEF would both adopt a clear role in participating in sector-based approaches in future, based on its mandate for children's rights, and would proceed to reflect this explicitly in future programme documentation. In that connection, the Director assured that UNICEF placed great importance on SWAPS and sector investment programmes (SIPs) and had collaborated to varying degrees, was trying to bring added value to the processes.

21. A similar comment was made with respect to the need to clarify the role of UNICEF in the UNDAF process, where it existed, as well as the need for new programmes of cooperation to indicate how the findings of programme evaluations, lessons learned, situation analyses of children and women, and the wider Common Country Assessments (CCAs) have influenced the selection of strategic priorities and major areas of intervention. It was noted that, in many cases, the statement of lessons learned was weak and the use of such lessons in defining the proposed strategy was unclear. The Director said that the secretariat would try to include more details in the CPRs as well as in future country notes.

22. It was suggested that programme documentation should indicate how the achievement of programme and project objectives would be monitored and include a

statement of at least some of the main indicators, evaluation activities and information collection systems used to track progress and key results in the main areas of UNICEF cooperation support. This was seen to have even greater importance where UNICEF was one of several partners in a SWAP.

23. In response to a query about allocations for programme budgets, the Director explained that regular resources were allocated on the basis of a system approved by the Executive Board. The level of other resources was based on a pragmatic approach which took into account such elements as the levels of previous allocations, anticipation of the receipt of the funds and the level of utilization of the funds.

24. One Board member commented on the lack of a UNICEF presence in his country. The Director noted his concern and assured that UNICEF would review the situation carefully.

25. In conclusion, the Director expressed appreciation for the delegations' candid remarks, which he reiterated would be taken into consideration in the preparation of the final CPRs. In invited Board members to share their concerns and other issues bilaterally with the secretariat.

Country notes

Eastern and Southern Africa

26. The Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa presented an overview of activities in the region and introduced the country notes for Rwanda (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.1), Swaziland (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.2) and Uganda (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.3). He spoke about the lives of the people in the region which were dominated by armed conflict and HIV/AIDS, noting the important collaboration and coordination efforts with the International Alliance Against AIDS in Africa, the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the UNDAF theme group on HIV/AIDS. In sub-Saharan Africa, HIV/AIDS represented a social catastrophe which was having a direct economic impact and threatened political stability. He said that in 1998, the Regional Office decided to reorient all UNICEF-supported programmes in the region to focus on HIV/AIDS and malaria. The programming framework that was developed and tested in the region combined human rights, community capacity development and emergency responsiveness. In conclusion, the Regional Director outlined the major components of the three country notes which reflected this framework.

27. Many delegations expressed support for the priority focus on HIV/AIDS in the region and stressed the importance of partnerships in this regard. The representative of UNAIDS reported on the catastrophic situation of HIV/AIDS in Africa and the UNDAF-related team group system to provide a platform for strengthening national AIDS programmes. Mention was also made of the Secretary-General leading a meeting of partners in the fight against HIV/AIDS and the recent Security Council focus on the subject. One delegation cited mother-to-child transmission of HIV as an area in which UNICEF could strengthen its work to fight AIDS more aggressively. It was noted, however, that while HIV/AIDS was a commendable priority, children's rights were still at risk in traditional areas of UNICEF support, such as health and education.

28. Several speakers noted the insufficient attention given to SWAPs and SIPs, as well as to UNDAF and other partnerships in the documents, and stressed the importance of UNICEF participation in these mechanisms. In response, the Regional Director noted that UNICEF was very involved in discussions of SWAPs at the country level, often chairing SWAPS working groups. He said that UNICEF representatives had been working to integrate priorities for children's rights in SWAPs and continued to learn from the experience. One delegation added that UNICEF participation in SWAPs should ensure the inclusion of such critical themes as HIV/AIDS, malnutrition, poverty, etc.

29. Concern was expressed by a number of delegations that a large portion of budgeted funds was from other resources and, therefore, not assured, e.g. Uganda where 75 per cent of the programme depended on other resources. The question was raised as to the basis for the calculation of estimates for other resources, and it was suggested that future country notes should indicate the amount of other resources received in the previous programme period and for which areas.

30. One speaker remarked that none of the country notes referred to how UNICEF was assisting national Governments in aid coordination, which could be problematic due to the large number of ministries involved and the limited amount of funds. The Regional Director replied that aid coordination was primarily a Government's responsibility. However, greater coherence in the United Nations system was achieved through UNDAF.

31. Regarding the *Rwanda* country note, several delegations noted that the situation analysis seemed overly optimistic, including in relation to rehabilitated social, administrative, judicial and economic infrastructures and claims about the rapidly growing economy. Also, the accuracy of the number of children affected by the genocide was questioned. It was noted that while social sector expenditure had increased, only a small percentage was allocated to primary health care (PHC). It was remarked that the return to the traditional justice system and the participation of women and youth organizations in elections were important events which should have been included in the situation analysis. The Regional Director responded that there had certainly been significant improvements in the situation in Rwanda since 1994. However, he acknowledged that the characterization of the situation in the country note might have been somewhat over-optimistic. Because of limitations on the length of country notes, there was a trade-off in terms of comprehensiveness.

32. Several delegations noted that the proposed priorities of the Rwanda country note seemed to fall within a broad interpretation of the UNICEF mandate. However, the capacity of the country office to manage this ambitious programme with numerous priorities was questioned, with a suggestion to focus on fewer priorities. One delegation expressed the view that support to street children and child soldiers could have been emphasized more. One speaker remarked that donor collaboration and NGO partnerships needed more attention.

33. Commenting on the *Swaziland* country note, many delegations expressed support for the strategy to prioritize HIV/AIDS, while noting that the programme also involved all the important sectors. One delegation asked why measures for combating HIV/AIDS were not explicitly reflected in the budget. It was suggested that partnerships with local donors be emphasized.

34. Many delegations agreed with the key elements of the strategy in the *Uganda* country note, which consisted of community empowerment, capacity-building and advocacy. One speaker expressed reservations about the capacity of the country office to manage the programme and also asked how adolescents and street children would be targeted in HIV/AIDS activities. The same speaker noted that the proposed strategy did not address the low immunization rates or problems of child spacing and malnutrition in the country. Several delegations said that the health and education challenges seemed to have been down-played and that the amount allocated to both sectors should be higher. It was also noted that existing partnerships at the country level had not been adequately reflected. In that connection, a speaker mentioned his country's support of the Complementary Opportunities for Primary Education (COPE) programme in Uganda through the education SIP and looked forward to working with UNICEF in this area. Another speaker stressed the importance of basic education in the fight against HIV/AIDS and said that feedback from their local embassy indicated good consultation in programme planning with partners, although this was not reflected in the country note. He also stated that although UNICEF was active in SWAPs, this is also not adequately reflected in the country note. In response, the Regional Director noted that the COPE experience was now being emulated in neighbouring United Republic of Tanzania.

35. Another speaker questioned why emergency preparedness had been included as part of the overall strategy. The Regional Director replied that in line with UNICEF programme policies, emergency response was mainstreamed as a set of predictable core activities which formed part of the country programme. Both Rwanda and Uganda combined emergency actions with human rights and community capacity development. The same speaker wanted to know the impact of the five national programmes and how the situation could be improved. In response, the Regional Director said that for sustained community capacity-building, action was needed at district, regional and national levels. As such, he noted, UNICEF identified allies at various levels and trained facilitators.

36. In response to a query about how lessons learned in HIV/AIDS programmes in countries such as Uganda were being applied, the Regional Director cited several country examples of high level advocacy and programme response. Regarding quantifiable measures for HIV/AIDS, he noted that along with UNAIDS and UNDAF partners, UNICEF was trying to expand the conventional indicators to include behavioural development indicators. He noted that as in the case of other development areas such as nutrition, a community-based surveillance system was needed, and welcomed the collaboration of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and others in strengthening HIV/AIDS surveillance. He also stressed the strategic importance of voluntary testing and counselling and addressing the rights of AIDS orphans which were new areas of work for UNICEF.

37. One delegation made reference to the plight of children and women abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army and requested that the story of these children be widely disseminated so that such tragedies should never again be repeated. The Regional Director agreed with the suggestion and noted that the recent release of some of the abducted children was a step in the right direction which UNICEF intended to pursue until all the abducted children were released.

West and Central Africa

38. The Regional Director for West and Central Africa introduced the country notes for Burkina Faso (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.4), Chad (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.5) and Ghana (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.6). She informed the Board that the next programme cycles of the three countries would be harmonized with other United Nations agencies starting in 2001. She highlighted the strategic approach of the three documents, which focused on the highly disadvantaged regions and sections of the population. They promoted national-level strategies for advocacy, subregional capacity-building and support to the provision of basic social services, giving priority to equitable access and improved quality of services. Special attention was also given to the prevention of HIV/AIDS among young people and mother-to-child transmission of the virus

39. Many delegations expressed support for the country notes, commenting on the benefits of a multisectoral approach and geographic focus. One delegation commended UNICEF work in the three countries, particularly in the areas of social mobilization, community development and child protection. However, concern was expressed about the limited local capacity to implement and manage programmes for children. They suggested that future country notes and CPRs indicate how this constraint would be addressed in the interest of national ownership, and why previous programme objectives had not been met.

40. Delegations raised question about the relevance of the country notes to the UNDAF process, to the decisions of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly regarding the Secretary General's recommendations on Africa, and to the United Nations System-wide Initiative on Africa. In response, the Executive Director noted that UNDAF was a planning instrument intended to bring more coherence to the activities of the system at the country level, but it was too early to evaluate its global impact since not all countries had completed the exercise. She remarked that the System-wide Initiative would normally fit within the planning framework of the UNDAF. The Regional Director clarified that UNDAFs were based on national priorities, and noted that UNICEF offices in Burkina Faso, Chad and Ghana were involved in their respective UNDAF processes.

41. One delegation stressed the importance of strengthening resource mobilization strategies to help raise the necessary other resources for new programmes. The same delegation noted that the proposed budgets did not seem overly ambitious, since the needs of children and women in these countries were great. The regional consultation on the future of children in West and Central Africa, held in December 1999, had provided an opportunity for Governments and civil society to reaffirm their commitment to children. There was, however, a need to define the specific support that the international community was willing to provide and to develop a work plan to make these commitments concrete. Another delegation noted that the regional consultation was important in providing new momentum for Africa to mobilize its own resources for children and prepare for the upcoming United Nations General Assembly Special Session for Follow-up to the World Summit for Children in 2001. The Regional Director agreed with these comments and informed the Board that in the follow-up to the consultation, the Regional Office was planning another meeting to develop a plan of action for West Africa, based on the global plan of action. She confirmed that the outcome of the process would contribute significantly to the special session in 2001. She stated further that the region was receiving approximately $40 million in additional UNICEF regular resources and

was working to strengthen the human resources capacity through the deployment of regional HIV/AIDS and emergency personnel and at the country level.

42. Several delegations expressed support for the proposed strategy in the *Burkina Faso* country note. One speaker stated that, in broad terms, the note reflected government policies in the relevant areas. The same speaker expressed concern, however, about the tendency towards direct project implementation by UNICEF, with limited involvement of the Government and NGOs, and stressed the importance of national ownership. The speaker observed that the country note did not mention the SWAPs being developed in the country, and UNICEF involvement in the country seemed to be restricted by a lack of policy guidance from headquarters. In response, the Regional Director assured delegations that her office would work with UNICEF Burkina Faso to ensure that collaboration with the Government and other development partners was strengthened.

43. Another delegation noted that the country note failed to mention the significant government support to education and the basic social sectors. The delegation further stated that it was necessary to ascertain the consistency of programmes and requested information on how UNICEF made use of these government social programmes in its overall programme of cooperation. He wanted to know about the evaluation of satellite schools and their impact on students. Regarding decentralization, he stressed that ratification of the treaties on the rights of children and women did not guarantee respect for rights, and that UNICEF should provide support to organizations that worked to promote rights and denounce abuse.

44. Regarding the *Chad* country note, one delegation remarked that the proposed approach seemed ambitious, judging by the limited available resources and national absorptive capacity. The same speaker indicated that it was important to include information on the geographic focus of the strategy, programme management arrangements and level of collaboration with other development partners. The Regional Director responded that more information would be provided in the CPRs being presented to the Board in September.

45. Several delegations noted the high quality of the Ghana country note and spoke of the positive role of UNICEF in the SWAPs in health and education, particularly in such cross-cutting themes as HIV/AIDS, malnutrition and poverty. In response, the Regional Director noted that, where possible, UNICEF had been involved in SWAPs in the region and had continued to work towards expanding collaboration with the Bretton Woods institutions and other partners.

46. One delegation noted that although UNICEF Ghana did not participate in the health common basket, its sectoral policies and collaboration with the Government, donors, NGOs and the development community were exemplary and should be emulated. Other delegations commended the balance in strategies between rural and community-based programmes and the targeting of the disadvantaged north.

Americas and the Caribbean

47. The Regional Director for the Americas and Caribbean introduced the country notes for Guyana (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.7) and Peru (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.8). He highlighted the Leadership Initiative for Children as a region-wide movement to accelerate the achievements of the World Summit for Children goals and to mobilize Governments and society as a whole. He informed the Board that the Tenth

Iberoamerican Summit of Heads of State, to be held in Panama in November 2000, would have children and youth as a central theme. The Regional Director noted the deteriorating socio-economic situation in Guyana and its severe impact on the lives of children and women, and provided a brief description of the proposed programme. He stated that although Peru had a remarkable recovery during the 1990s, there were still ethnic and geographic disparities, social exclusion and severe problems such as HIV/AIDS. Lessons learned through programming experiences in both Guyana and Peru pointed to the need to address issues of inequality and exclusion to ensure that the goals of the World Summit for Children could be reached.

48. Many delegations found that the *Guyana* country note addressed the priority areas, although one delegation said that the picture presented of the country was unduly pessimistic. Another delegation stated that although the political turmoil surrounding the 1997 elections had contributed to a worsening of the situation of women and children, the overall socio-economic conditions in the subregion were also to blame. Because of the scope of the problems the country faced, the delegation felt that the proposed allocation of funds was inadequate. One delegation stated that, given the projected funding level, a stronger focus on fewer areas would produce better results. Another speaker commended the work being done by the Government to strengthen public and private sector linkages, and recommended that this be used as a model for implementing similar policies throughout the region.

49. Alarm was expressed over the number of children affected by HIV/AIDS, especially in Guyana, and stressed the importance of preventive action and education of young people. Delegations felt that UNICEF should make available even greater resources. One delegation requested that the country note give a clearer indication of what UNICEF expected to be achieved in this area, and felt that the HIV crisis could be addressed as a cross-cutting theme at the country level. The speaker fully supported the organization's efforts to address the problem as a global issue. The Regional Director noted that the HIV/AIDS programme was in fact a high priority in the Caribbean, and particularly in the Guyana country programme. UNICEF was working very closely as a part of the inter-agency group on HIV/AIDS. One delegation noted that the allocations for the Guyana programme in the three areas of social policy and rights, education and life skills, and local systems for integrated child protection were inadequate.

50. Several delegations expressed their support for both country notes and the general goals of the programmes. Another delegation commended some of the areas of the programme, finding them ambitious, but realistic. In some cases, however, delegations felt the analysis of the situation in the country was too brief and rather superficial, especially in the case of *Peru*. Mention should have been made of the economic context in which UNICEF activities took place. It was also noted that details were lacking in terms of implementation approaches. The country note failed to address gender issues, such as the barriers to women's access to work and the low school enrolment of girls, especially in the mountainous regions.

51. Speaking on behalf of those who took part in the Executive Board field visit to Peru in 1999, one delegation voiced the group's full support for the country note. They were especially encouraged by the rights-based approach and felt that the programme could be a model in this regard. They considered social inclusion a very important initiative and affirmed that it was at the heart of children's rights. Another

delegation endorsed the activities in community-level communication and broad partnerships. One delegation found the data on the reduction of poverty in Peru to be overly optimistic and expressed some disagreement with the claim that health centres in Los Andes had been restructured. In response, the Regional Director explained that specific guidelines and databases had been used when preparing the country note, but that, particularly in the field of health and nutrition, a different structure was now in place.

52. Referring to child labour, concern was expressed about the large number of children who were subject to harmful conditions, and recommended that firm action be taken to deal with the root causes of these forms of labour. The same speaker requested clarification on links between UNICEF and the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour. Another delegation expressed the opinion that child labour was a consequence of the structural adjustments imposed by the World Bank, widening the gap between rich and poor countries, as well as the extreme inequalities that existed throughout Latin America. A number of delegations enquired whether UNICEF was working on a cooperative project, approved at the Iberoamerican Summit, concerning the registration of children.

53. The Regional Director replied that UNICEF considered the most effective approach to the elimination of child labour to be through education, helping to get children back to school and providing the necessary support to families to ensure they were able to stay in school. UNICEF was also working with the International Labour Organization to ensure that children had guarantees in accordance with the Convention to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour. With regard to the project on child registration recommended at the Iberoamerican Summit, preparations were under way. The right to a name and nationality was a key priority for UNICEF in the region and was an important activity in the Peru country programme.

54. One delegation noted that childhood disability and disability prevention were not mentioned in the Peru country note, while another delegation suggested that UNICEF should strengthen cooperation with international NGOs working in the field of rights, mainly the Save the Children Alliance (SCA). Another delegation wondered where the UNDAF process stood in Peru and what had been the UNICEF contribution. The Regional Director stated that in the new Peru country programme, children with mild handicaps would be mainstreamed by working with communities and the education sector to ensure that their special needs were understood and that they were integrated into the regular education system. In the area of disability prevention, the eradication of iodine deficiency disorders had been the primary focus. The Regional Director pointed out that the country programme would also facilitate technical meetings aimed at improving social communication and advocacy strategies in favour of severely handicapped children.

55. On the question of collaboration, the Regional Director clarified that UNICEF work with NGOs in Peru was an important part of the way services were provided in many parts of the country. There was a special programme of cooperation with SCA, financed by the Government of Sweden, which involved collaboration in nine countries in Latin America, including Peru. On UNDAF, the Regional Director said that the CCA had been finalized for Peru and was being finalized for Guyana.

Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States

56. The Regional Director for Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States presented the country notes for Albania (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.15), Georgia (E/ICEF/2000/O/L.16) and Turkey (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.17). He noted the continued turbulent period of institutional and economic change in Albania, adding that the influx of up to 500,000 refugees from Kosovo (spring 1999) had placed an additional social burden on the country's weakened economy. In Georgia, children and women continued to suffer the negative effects of transition to a market economy, with an estimated 50 per cent of the population living in poverty. Turkey had experienced a decline in the ratio of public expenditures on basic social services. Moreover, the earthquakes that struck the western and most prosperous regions of the country in August 1999 had also brought economic and social hardship to the population. The three country notes reported on the rapid growth of HIV/AIDS in the region. The situations in the Balkans and the Northern Caucasus were also summarized.

57. One delegation noted that despite progress in some key health indicators, *Albania* was still facing serious maternal and child health (MCH) problems, including acute respiratory infections (ARI) and malnutrition. However, the extent of the problems was unclear owing to the gaps in the collection and analysis of social data. The fact that UNICEF was addressing this activity, which was critical to effective programmes, was welcomed. The Regional Director acknowledged the importance of focusing on closing those gaps to better understand the situation of children and women. The same speaker said that the final CPR should contain more details, including results achieved, on programming in the area of early childhood care and development as it aimed to contribute to reform of the PHC system. He also pointed out that reproductive health was not mentioned in the country note and hoped that as the final programme was developed, efforts would be made to coordinate activities in this area with the strong work supported by other donors in maternal health. The Regional Director said that UNICEF would take into account the comments on systematic support to PHC efforts and on ensuring that women's health activities were coordinated with efforts of others working in the area of reproductive health for women. Another delegation commented that the country note should have been more substantive in the steps UNICEF would take to protect and promote children's rights by ensuring that child-focused policies, programmes and projects were designed and linked to major structural reforms. The speaker added that the country note also failed to take into account the effects of the Government's agenda for decentralization, which could result in the devolution and fragmentation of responsibilities for children's services. In response, the Regional Director agreed with the views expressed about the potential danger that accompanied decentralization of responsibility and the possibility of the erosion of support for children's programmes. The delegation stressed that UNICEF needed to ensure that the Convention on the Rights of the Child was at the centre of policy if it was to be an effective instrument in combating child poverty and social exclusion. The point made on keeping children's rights a central focus in national policy would require UNICEF to examine carefully how to link the situation and the challenges facing children and women to the proposed structural reforms, taking into account both urban and rural situations.

58. With regard to the country note for *Georgia*, one delegation welcomed the strong focus on MCH activities, but expressed concern that this focus risked being diminished by the breadth of activities being planned across the entire programme. It was hoped that the final programme would reflect a greater prioritization of activities and resources to achieve the specific goals. In response, the Regional Director concurred with the need for clear priorities and, in terms of MCH activities, to ensure that UNICEF-supported activities were coordinated with the activities of others working in the country.

59. A speaker pointed out that the issue of reproductive health had not been dealt with in the *Turkey* country note, and he hoped that the final programme would address this area, indicating how UNICEF activities would be coordinated with the work of others if they are not specific partners in the UNICEF programme. The Regional Director said that UNICEF would take into account the need for closer collaboration with civil society organizations. UNICEF was also urged to ensure that the programme would address fewer objectives and include the specific results to be achieved. Another delegation reported on the problems to be addressed in the new country programme and expressed satisfaction with the humanitarian and disaster relief provided by UNICEF and the response of the Turkish National Committee for UNICEF following the earthquakes in 1999.

Middle East and North Africa

60. The Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa introduced the country note for the Syrian Arab Republic (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.18). He highlighted some of the new directions that programmes would be taking over the next few years in a number of countries in the region, some of which shared common features. The Syrian Arab Republic, among others, had achieved the majority of the World Summit for Children goals and was able to meet most of the survival and development needs of children. Thus, it would be possible, he said, to go beyond the medium-term goals and to fulfil the rights of all children, as well as to reduce in-country disparities and address protection and participation issues for the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

61. The consultative process put in place to examine achievements and shortcomings for the MTR of the programme of cooperation for the *Syrian Arab Republic* highlighted the need to address subnational disparities and child protection issues to assist the country in moving beyond goals to rights. The country note outlined the next country programme's proposed focus on reducing disparities, improving service quality, and promoting and monitoring fuller implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

62. Many delegations stressed the importance of focusing on subnational disparities. They also confirmed that the approach used by UNICEF corresponded to current needs in the country and expressed their satisfaction with efforts to address juvenile delinquency. A number of delegations stated that the document reflected the close collaboration among all actors concerned with the fulfilment of children's and women's rights in the country.

63. The Regional Director expressed his appreciation to the members of the Executive Board for their support. He pledged more regular contact with the missions in New York as full country programmes were developed for submission to the Board.

East Asia and the Pacific

64. The Regional Director for East Asia and the Pacific introduced the country notes for Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Myanmar and Viet Nam (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.9-E/ICEF/2000/P/L.13, respectively). While the five country notes were prepared against diversified programming environments and offered unique features, UNICEF had tried to develop shared strategies and common approaches. The programme for Cambodia aimed to contribute to building a lasting peace through the provision of basic social services to its young generation and support for capacity development. The country note for China was developed in line with and reflected national priorities which would further guide the development of the National Plan of Action (NPA). The country note for Indonesia responded to the continuing crisis in the archipelago through strengthening family coping mechanisms, building on the country's social capital and community empowerment. The Regional Director informed the Board of the decision to present a separate CPR for East Timor to the Board at its second regular session in September. The country note for Myanmar had been developed in keeping with the historical mandate of UNICEF to help children in need, irrespective of the political circumstances and mindful of the views of all segments of Burmese society and General Assembly resolutions on the human rights situation in the country. The country note for Viet Nam had profited from the UNDAF exercise and the concurrent preparation of the CCA, and the programme would focus on 66 ethnic minority and underserved districts to reduce disparities and empower communities.

65. Several delegations commended the *Cambodia* country note which, they felt, reflected the reality of the country situation and was well targeted to the priorities of UNICEF. Another speaker expressed satisfaction with the good level of coordination between the UNICEF country programming exercise and the CCA and UNDAF processes. The same speaker called for continued attention to MCH and expressed concern with the allocation of only 8 per cent of programme funds to HIV/AIDS control. One delegation referred to the SWAP for education and stressed the need for increased coordination in this area. The same speaker emphasized the importance of child participation and urged that this element be strengthened in the country programme.

66. In response to the query about the low funding allocation to HIV/AIDS control programme, the Regional Director said that the HIV/AIDS situation in Cambodia was among the worst in the region; therefore, the country programme was the only one in the region with a separate component for HIV/AIDS control. In addition, all other components, such as education and health, contributed to HIV/AIDS control. The country also benefited from participation in the Mekong subregional programme in which Cambodia was one of the two priority countries to receive substantial resource allocation. He recognized the need for coordination and stronger involvement in the sector-wide programme for education and further acknowledged the contribution from the Government of Sweden to education programmes in Cambodia which had helped to improve the situation in the country.

67. The country note for *China*, including its rights-based approach, was supported by a number of speakers. In that connection, they wished to learn more about specific actions to raise awareness of the Convention on the Rights on the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. In view of the situation with regard to infant and under-five mortality, UNICEF was

urged to focus on gender differentials and disparities between the East and West of the country. The implications of the state reform on women were also highlighted, and one speaker wanted to know if adequate attention had been given to the issue of migrant workers, especially as a large number of their children did not have easy access to schools. The explicit emphasis on disaster preparedness built into the new programme was welcomed. However, the same speaker expressed concern about the direct linkage of the UNICEF programme to the NPA that was formulated every 10 years and suggested that this might impair the ability of UNICEF to respond to the rapid changes brought about by the ongoing reform initiatives. Concern was also expressed about the monitoring capacity of UNICEF when dealing with a programme that covered large geographical areas, and the issue was raised whether more emphasis should be given to monitoring and evaluation in the advocacy and social mobilization sector.

68. One delegation said that Government support to the efforts was not adequately reflected in the country note. Another speaker reported on national efforts, highlighting the need to improve access for people in the North and South-west of the country whose basic needs had yet to be met. The same speaker noted some of the emerging problems that were the focus of UNICEF cooperation, and reiterated the commitment of the Government to address these problems. Questions were also raised about UNICEF programme coverage versus that of other United Nations agencies, progress in the UNDAF process as well as in the search for new partnerships, and resource mobilization. Coordination among UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF in the area of maternal mortality reduction was welcomed, but, based on bilateral experiences, concern was raised about the lack of coordination within government counterparts. The same speaker requested that additional information on coordination with local NGOs be reflected, and questioned if the child labour issue would be given due attention in the new programme. The lack of reference in the country note to reproductive health as a priority area, as well as the importance of children's participation, was noted.

69. To the queries on the China country note, the Regional Director said that the direct link of the country note to the NPA would not impair the ability of UNICEF to respond to the changing situation. UNICEF had been invited to participate in the development of the NPA, and the finalized NPA would, in turn, guide the formulation of the country programme. He recognized the challenges in terms of monitoring in the vast areas of the country and added that while there were no staff posted outside Beijing, UNICEF had enjoyed excellent collaboration with national partners and staff were able to travel extensively. However, he felt that with the expansion of the programme coverage to the West, UNICEF would need to rethink the form of some sort of presence and would pursue the issue with national authorities. In terms of the Government contribution to UNICEF cooperation, the Regional Director said that while the country note might not have adequately reflected the type and amount of the contribution, in reality, UNICEF support to the country had been very small. Without substantive Government support, the past programme would not have been viable. On the lack of reflection on gender disparity in the country note, the Regional Director agreed to provide further details in future programme documentation. He thanked the country's delegation for its statement, which had helped to clarify a number of questions from the Board.

70. In terms of programme coverage, the Regional Director explained that certain activities such as immunization, polio eradication and universal salt iodization (USI)

were nationwide, while activities such as support to water and environmental sanitation and basic education were limited to 300 poor counties. Private sector participation in UNICEF cooperation was rather limited, but the Government had agreed to expand this area. In terms of collaboration with local NGOs, the Regional Director said that UNICEF had been working effectively with some local or semi-NGOs such as the All China Women's Federation. In HIV/AIDS control, UNICEF had been collaborating with some Buddhist groups in Yunnan province, which was part of the Mekong subregional programme. Regarding the floating (migrant) population, the Regional Director indicated that the situation analysis had identified the problem, and although not a major area of cooperation so far, UNICEF was working with the Government to develop appropriate approaches and strategies to tackle the problems.

71. Several delegations commended the frankness of the *Indonesia* country note in presenting the situation and lessons learned. The importance of establishing clear indicators so that the impact of the programme could be evaluated was stressed, as was the need for close coordination not only with the Government, but also with other multilateral and bilateral agencies. UNICEF was urged to continue working with traditional partners in addressing the gaps in maternal mortality, ARI and the expanded programme on immunization. Linkages needed to be built between UNICEF-supported interventions and SWAPs. The same delegation commented on collaboration with WHO in both West and East Timor. Appreciation was also expressed for the Executive Director's report on her visit to Indonesia, which had helped the Board gain a more accurate picture of the country's situation. The strategic focus that would help to strengthen the coping mechanism of families and communities with the worsening situation was welcomed, and appreciation was expressed for the geographical concentration of the proposed new programme, with the hope that flexibility would be retained to respond to unforeseen emergencies.

72. On the Indonesia programme, the Regional Director reassured delegations that UNICEF would stay the course on child survival and MCH programmes, and continue to work with traditional partners. In terms of the need for additional resources, he shared the concern about Indonesia's declining gross national product per capita and clarified that the regular resources funding allocation would be reviewed based on the formula and system that have been approved by the Board. In addition, the Regional Director confirmed that a separate CPR for East Timor would be prepared for the September Board session. As it would be a short-duration programme of less than five year, a country note would not be required. However, both the strategy component as well as programme content would be presented in the document. The Executive Director also commented on collaboration among agencies during her recent visit to both East and West Timor.

73. Regarding the *Myanmar* country note, several delegations questioned the credibility of the Government in providing conditions conducive for international cooperation that would lead to sustainable development and wondered if UNICEF could be fully effective in such an environment. Other speakers asked if a more restrictive approach such as that of UNDP would merit consideration and urged better coordination and consistency among United Nations agencies in delivering aid programmes. The view was also expressed that the CCA could help further examine the programming environment.

74. In response to a number of observations on the difficult environment for effective international presence in Myanmar and whether UNICEF should take an approach similar to that of UNDP, the Regional Director said that UNICEF cooperation had a mixed record of some very successful examples (high and sustained levels of immunization, good record of vitamin A distribution, salt iodization ,and improved access to environmental sanitation) and some less successful ones (basic education where the primary enrolment and completion rates remained the lowest in the region). Even so, UNICEF involvement in two basic education projects had helped schools in the assisted areas to achieve a completion rate of over 70 per cent and this success could be replicated. Most universities remain closed and UNICEF had discussed the situation with the Government. He said that there was also much to be achieved in the area of HIV/AIDS control, and it had been a part of UNICEF efforts at the subregional level. UNICEF-supported activities such as polio eradication should not be limited to a small number of townships, and the same held true for USI and immunization. He urged the Board to give more encouragement to the Government to allow UNICEF to be involved in assisting the internally displaced populations which were in camps and resettlement villages in the border areas. The Regional Director expressed satisfaction with the current collaboration among United Nations agencies, but agreed that the development of a CCA would further promote such collaboration.

75. Some delegations welcomed the integrated approach outlined in the *Viet Nam* country note. In commenting on the strategy development that was based on lessons learned, one speaker felt that the programme seemed too ambitious. The delegation appealed for closer collaboration with other partners such as the World Bank and NGOs in areas such as MCH and HIV/AIDS control. The goals of the country note were considered appropriate and the sharper focus on fewer districts was welcomed. The secretariat was requested to provide more information on the programme linkage to the poverty reduction activities of other agencies. Appreciation was expressed for the role of UNICEF in SWAPs, and the organization was urged to strengthen its involvement in the UNDAF process. It was brought to the attention of the Board that both child disability and child participation had not received sufficient attention in the country note. The consultative process leading to the formulation of the programme strategy was welcomed by one speaker, who also highlighted the need for strengthening monitoring and accountability, especially at the district level, in view of the SWAPs.

76. The Regional Director explained that while the Viet Nam programme might appear broad and ambitious, it focused on 66 districts representing the most deprived geographic areas with low coverage of social services. He also agreed with the suggestion that UNICEF should increase its participation in the UNDAF process and informed the Board of the current leadership role of UNICEF in a number of working groups.

77. In response to the general issues raised by one delegation in terms of monitoring, which did not seem to have been given adequate attention in all of the country notes, the Regional Director welcomed the suggestions, but also listed a number of monitoring and evaluation activities such as the end-decade goal reviews, the multiple indicator cluster surveys (MICS) in all countries and periodic reviews on programme progress. He also confirmed that more attention would be given to the rights for child participation and encouraged countries to share their experiences in this regard. The Executive Director also shared her observations with the Board

on UNICEF work in the areas of education and health. She concurred with the observation on the need for better reporting on programme results.

South Asia

78. The Regional Director for South Asia introduced the country note for Bangladesh (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.14), and also briefed the Board on recent regional trends and UNICEF priorities in South Asia. While Bangladesh had made significant progress in many areas, it was still faced with many challenges. The core cross-cutting strategies proposed for the new programme aimed to address gender inequity, build the capacity of state and civil society institutions responsible for programme implementation and provide support for decentralization. He described the SWAPs for the health and nutrition programmes and the evolution of the UNDAF/CCA process. He further reported on regional trends and briefly addressed the problem of arsenicosis.

79. As requested by the Executive Board at its September 1999 session, the Executive Director made an oral presentation on the issue of arsenic contamination of drinking water in Bangladesh. Both the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director undertook missions to Bangladesh during 1999. During her visit, the Executive Director met the Prime Minister and other government officials and was able to see the real situation first hand. It was a large-scale emerging challenge which represented a serious health and human crisis, and remained complex and multidimensional. Many critical questions remained unanswered, and the development of responses was evolving. The imperative, she said, was to act quickly.

80. Coordinated efforts were being mobilized among United Nations agencies and international financial institutions under the leadership of the Government of Bangladesh through the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives. UNICEF currently chaired the Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Water Resources, which was finalizing a collective monograph on the state-of-the-art knowledge to guide the design of mitigation interventions. Collective responses had been developed to achieve four objectives: to identify and mark contaminated tube-wells; to provide alternative water sources; to respect people's rights to knowledge; and to pursue scientific and medical investigations. UNICEF, which had been involved in all of these activities, had focused on supporting the testing of existing wells to help identify and provide safe and alternative sources, mass communication efforts and health management. UNICEF would be working in partnership with the Government; other national and local collaborators such as the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee, Dhaka Community Hospitals and Grameen Bank; agencies such as WHO, the World Bank and the International Atomic Energy Agency; and bilateral agencies such as the Department for International Development (United Kingdom).

81. The Executive Director noted that in Bangladesh in the early 1980s, 132 children out of 1,000 born died in infancy, and 250,000 children died from diarrhoea before they reached the age of five years due to unsafe surface water. Ten years later, infant deaths have been halved through the use of tube-wells, along with improved sanitation, hygiene and diarrhoea case management. The challenge, she said, was to protect the remarkable progress made, while responding to this naturally occurring phenomenon of arsenic contamination in a timely and appropriate manner.

She reassured the Board of the organization's commitment to respond to this situation, expressing confidence that UNICEF was moving in the right direction to protect the lives of children and women in Bangladesh.

82. Several delegations welcomed the *Bangladesh* country note, but a few of them expressed concern about its quality. They said that it lacked details on the lessons learned; provided little analysis on key issues, e.g. institutional weakness; provided limited elaboration on the rights-based approach to programming; and made a broad statement of the strategies with no reference to the development context and targets. In addition, there was inadequate explanation of how UNICEF efforts would affect the programme outcomes and little information about donor coordination, the linkage to the UNDAF process and the role of UNICEF in SWAPs. On the other hand, several speakers welcomed the programme strategies related to linking women's rights issues, such as domestic violence against women and early obstetric care in maternal mortality reduction, while highlighting the need to eliminate child labour and trafficking of women and children. Appreciation was also expressed for the focus on the critical stages of the life cycle and capacity-building. The secretariat was requested to ensure that the additional information already provided in the Regional Director's presentation was included in the future programming document.

83. The delegation of the country reiterated its Government's concurrence with the priorities outlined in the country note and noted the Government's collaboration with UNICEF in the SWAPs for health and nutrition. He reported further on the Government's focus on gender equity, women's health, the quality of education, the decentralization process and collaboration with NGOs, while highlighting the resource constraints of UNICEF in supporting implementation of the proposed programme activities. The emphasis on natural disaster preparedness and emergency relief efforts was welcomed, but it was felt that there was a need for increased emphasis on reproductive health. One delegation commended UNICEF collaboration with the Government and USAID as reflected in the country note. Another speaker encouraged more local procurement.

84. Several delegations welcomed the emphasis in the country note on issues such as birth registration, hard-to-reach children, and life skills to prevent early marriages through integrated approaches. However, they wondered whether elements such as non-discrimination and participation were built into the education programme and whether they would help children to be aware of their rights to survival and development. In terms of participation, a speaker wanted to know if the views of children as well as those of parents were reflected in the curriculum development. The rights and specific needs of disabled children should also have been reflected in the country note.

85. In response to queries from the Board, the country's delegation further described Government efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and to encourage community participation in education. On the issue of the arsenic contamination, the delegation noted that while affordable technology such as tube-wells helped to reduce the incidence of cholera and diarrhoea, there were still 23 million people who had suffered from the arsenic contamination. None the less, the delegation agreed that the solutions were still based on hypotheses and not conclusive and, therefore, emphasized that future interventions should focus on providing knowledge to the general public about the contamination; developing

technology for comprehensive testing; providing not only the short-terms solutions, but also working on long-term strategies; improving community education; and ensuring effective coordination and adequate funding. The delegation acknowledged support from UNICEF, UNDP, the World Bank and WHO and also called for an open structure which would allow other donors to participate in the effort. Several speakers welcomed UNICEF efforts with regard to the arsenic contamination, with the Government fulfilling the role of coordination. Some delegations cautioned, however, that this coordination should not distract United Nations' efforts for other water and sanitation problems and that the duplication of mechanisms already established by the Government should be avoided.

86. The Regional Director acknowledged several deficiencies in the country note such as the lack of analysis of the broader development context and of lessons learned, and regretted that while substantive discussions did in fact occur at the country level, they were not adequately reflected in the country note. The Regional Director reassured the Board that future documentation would adequately reflect these issues. In terms of UNICEF involvement in the SWAPs for health and nutrition, the Regional Director said that while UNICEF had not committed resources in the common fund, it had been involved in the discussions with various partners and was a major partner in project implementation. In terms of the quality of education, the Regional Director shared with the Board examples of UNICEF-supported interventions that addressed the concerns of child participation and gender equity.

87. On the issue of procurement, the Regional Director emphasized the growing volume of local procurement in Bangladesh in recent years and acknowledged that in 1999 alone, essential drugs in the amount of $18 million were purchased. While UNDAF started later than the UNICEF country programming exercise, the strategy development reflected the UNDAF. Regarding integrated approaches, the Regional Director said while it was not sufficiently covered in the country note, UNICEF was making efforts to break the sectoral barriers in programme development and implementation.

Europe

88. The Regional Director for Europe provided an overview of development in that region. The Geneva Regional Office (GRO) had been working intensely with its major partners, the National Committees for UNICEF, to prepare for the enormous challenges that UNICEF would face in the new millennium. In cooperation with PSD, GRO had implemented a Joint Planning Process with eight pilot countries to assess and monitor activities in all sectors of their work. This had led to the development of a multi-year strategic plan that spelled out each National Committees' overall goals and the support to be provided by UNICEF in this effort. In 2000, the process would be launched with a second group of countries, with the aim of implementing it with all 37 National Committees by the end of 2001. In addition, a Nordic Market Review had been undertaken to focus on the unique characteristics of the four National Committees, while examining common regional interests. The Regional Director also reported that the GRO was now responsible for all negotiations on the allocation of National Committees' funds and reporting back on their utilization, which would respond to the rationale of the new MYFF. The Board was also briefed on new developments with the European Union and the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO).

89. One delegation wanted to know whether attempts had been made to establish links between the National Committees as well as with the activities of National Committees and those of similar groups in developing countries. The Regional Director replied that the country programme was the focus of activities and that linkages between some of the National Committees followed a very strict framework. Another speaker said that as the Board should be involved with the communication and commercial policies of UNICEF, the Regional Director should continue to keep the Board informed of developments with National Committees. He also supported the strengthening of their relationship. The Regional Director assured delegations that this subject would be a regular part of Board deliberations. UNICEF, he said, would continue to work to improve its relationship with ECHO. Moreover, Board members who were members of ECHO were urged to encourage its collaboration with UNICEF. In response to a query about the role of National Committees, the Regional Director noted their importance for fund-raising, while acknowledging that their roles in areas such as advocacy, children's rights and education for development were also essential elements

Recommendations for additional regular resources for approved country programmes

90. The Executive Board approved the recommendations for additional regular resources for 10 country programmes and the one-year extension of the current programme cycles of two country programmes as contained in document E/ICEF/2000/P/L.19. (See annex II, decision 2000/2.)

C. Multi-year funding framework

91. The Executive Board had before it a report on the proposed MYFF (E/ICEF/2000/5), which was introduced by the Executive Director. She recalled that the report had been prepared in response to decision 1999/8 (E/ICEF/1999/7/Rev.1), which requested the Executive Director to submit a plan on the timing of the presentation to the Board of the various elements of the multi-year framework, with a view to try to enhance their interlinkages. She said that the annual session would consolidate all elements of reporting on results, as well as provide an opportunity to present and discuss policy issues. The second regular Board session would focus on planning, while the focus of the first regular session would be on the budget and financial resources and strategic programme issues. She described the four elements of the paper, noting that the proposal contained therein had been the outcome of extensive debate and review. She said that UNICEF saw the development of the MYFF as an opportunity to strengthen results-based management for enhanced programme excellence in the context of UNICEF as a learning organization.

92. Board members welcomed the proposed MYFF as a significant step forward, with one delegation describing it as a landmark in the process of strengthening results-based management for improved programme performance in UNICEF. Several delegations noted the importance of the framework both as an internal management tool to help sharpen the strategic focus of the organization and as a means to strengthen reporting on results. Other speakers highlighted its utility in ensuring adequate and predictable funding levels. A number of delegations emphasized that the MYFF was a means to an end, which would produce better results for children. The secretariat recalled the long UNICEF tradition of results-

based programmes and processes, pledging to continue working to strengthen such approaches.

93. The extensive work that had gone into the preparation of the document was commended by numerous delegations. They commented particularly on the positive nature of the broad consultative processes followed, including consultations with UNFPA, UNDP and bilateral donors; informal consultations and briefings with Executive Board members; and discussions within UNICEF at all levels. One speaker noted that the transparency of the process had contributed to a superior document. Several speakers expressed the hope that such positive collaboration would continue to guide efforts in the future as work on implementation of the MYFF proceeds. Interest in further collaborative efforts was confirmed by the secretariat.

94. Several speakers noted, as per the document under review, that with the main elements of the MYFF already in place, further efforts could continue to build on these and they could be consolidated into a coherent system. Many of them referred to the necessarily iterative nature of the process of development and implementation of the MYFF, which would involve a process of trial and error and learning by doing. In this regard, the UNICEF view of the MYFF as an evolving "work in progress" was understood and accepted.

95. Several speakers spoke about the challenge of implementation of MYFF, stressing the importance of its full understanding and "ownership" at all levels within UNICEF. One delegation noted that the main lesson learned from its own implementation of a similar framework was that primacy needs to be given to the country programme. It was essential, therefore, that country office personnel made this approach their own. This was reaffirmed in the secretariat's response.

96. Analytical reporting on results linked to objectives and budget was identified as a core element of the framework. It was recognized that building an effective reporting system, with an analytical focus on actual results achieved against planned objectives, required a gradual process and presented a common challenge shared by other agencies. Delegations looked forward in this regard to reviewing the analytical results-oriented reporting to be presented in part II of the Executive Director's annual report. Several speakers acknowledged the complexity of issues related to "attribution", with efforts needed to distinguish as clearly as possible between results most directly attributable to UNICEF and development changes arising from larger processes. At the same time, UNICEF was urged not to let its heightened focus on programme results detract from its analysis of and reporting on the results of external processes and broader trends affecting children. The secretariat responded that issues of attribution would be dealt with in part by a clearer definition in the CPR of the specific areas of focus for UNICEF, with agreement that attribution was clearest at the activity level. At the same time, UNICEF would not neglect wider analysis of results for children independent of its own interventions.

97. One delegation asked how UNICEF planned to report on results only partly achieved or not at all. Other delegations raised questions about the link between results reported and funding levels. One delegation suggested that implementation of the MYFF would help to determine at what point a decision could be made to continue or discontinue programmes based on results. Noting, however, that the MYFF was not intended to introduce any element of conditionality or distort programme priorities, two speakers stressed that difficulties in achieving results

should not lead to a decrease in funding, rather in a reorientation of programme approaches that work. Conversely, another speaker that countries that had achieved significant results should not be penalized for such achievements through lower funding levels, since continued funding was needed for sustainability. It was stated that both donors and programme countries would agree that convincing results should lead to increased funding. The secretariat noted its intention to be as consistent and complete in the reporting obligation as possible, particularly in the annual report, including providing an analysis of why things were not going well.

98. A few delegations evoked issues related to the aggregation of results at a global level based on country-level reporting. A question was raised about the steps taken to institutionalize reporting mechanisms among country, regional and headquarters levels. The importance of basing global reporting on country-level reports was addressed by one delegation, while another emphasized the activity level as the key focus for reporting on results in the most transparent manner. The secretariat confirmed that more work was needed on the issue of aggregation of results.

99. Two delegations responded positively to the proposal to identify particular intended themes for in-depth annual reporting, suggesting that the Executive Board participate in the choice of these results. The secretariat responded that UNICEF looked forward to meeting with members of the Board on a forward-looking agenda of thematic areas for reporting focus, noting that the regional reports to the Board on major evaluations and MTRs could also be viewed in this light.

100. One delegation expressed agreement with flexibility for the Executive Director to adjust the post pyramid, highlighting the importance of the proposal to incorporate a reporting mechanism into the MYFF to ensure transparency.

101. Several speakers made comments on and raised questions about issues related to indicators used to measure results. A few delegations stressed that a focus on measuring performance should not preclude qualitative assessment of processes, urging that both quantitative and qualitative indicators of progress should be developed, particularly in relation to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. One delegation wanted to know when the Board could expect such indicators to be presented. A number of speakers stressed the need for coherence/collaboration with other agencies in the development of indicators, with one wanting to know how the choice of indicators would fit into the UNDAF exercise. Other speakers mentioned the importance of collaboration from country offices in indicator development. The need for simplicity and "user-friendliness" in the choice and application of indicators and performance measurement systems was also emphasized. The secretariat responded that consultative processes were under way to develop qualitative indicators for such areas as communication for behaviour change, capacity-building and adolescent health. Other indicators, including those related to Convention, were currently being tested in the MICS being conducted to assess progress towards the World Summit for Children goals. The indicator framework in the CCA guidelines represented consensus among United Nations agencies, including UNICEF.

102. Delegations expressed agreement that the current medium-term plan (MTP) would remain valid through 2001, with the next medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) to cover 2002-2005 and to be developed on the basis of analysis of results from the first MTP. A few delegations requested additional information about the process of

identifying objectives and core result areas in the new MTSP and the future Global Agenda for Children. One delegation evoked the need for better-defined objectives and outputs against which to measure results, a feature missing from the current MTP. Some speakers stressed the importance of mechanisms to ensure a fit between such global planning processes and country programme planning processes, with one stressing the importance of UNICEF actions being guided by the needs of children at the country level. Two delegations urged that flexibility be maintained in the objectives of the proposed fixed four-year MTSP to enable appropriate responses to changing conditions on the ground. The secretariat responded that there was a direct connection between the Global Agenda for Children and the core result areas identified. They noted the primacy of the country programming process, which allows for flexibility and variation on the ground, with well-established mechanisms such as the MTR, and annual review and strategy meetings providing opportunities to modify country programme structures, as appropriate. More specific objectives and indicators were being identified for the next MTSP, which would help in reporting on results at the country level as well as globally.

103. A number of delegations raised questions about the status of programme coding, the application of financial systems and the establishment of links to programmes. One delegation queried whether the coding system based on medium-term priorities would have to be revised every four years, or if it would be broad enough to ensure a continuing fit. The same delegation requested information on progress made in country-level reporting on regular and other resources. The secretariat informed that the Financial and Logistics System had been on-line since the beginning of 1999, and the Programme Manager System had been operational in all offices by the end of 1999, with ongoing efforts being made to clear up remaining problems and work towards integration. Delegations were also informed that an effort to broaden the available coding of the Programme Information Data Base was under way partly in anticipation of the next MTSP and emerging issues, with the electronic nature of the system amenable to relatively easy revisions thereafter. While separate reporting on regular resources as distinct from other resources was not performed at the country level, UNICEF could make a global analysis by type of funding.

104. In general, delegations supported the proposed timing of presentations to the Board; however, a few queries as well as the need for further consideration were raised. One delegation noted that the timing of the proposed funding event did not coincide with that of UNDP or UNFPA and was also delinked from the report on results achieved. Another delegation requested further clarification on the impact of the new timing on harmonization with other funds. A few speakers questioned the timing of the biennial support budget approval at the first regular Board session. Other delegations wondered whether the early pledging event would accommodate variability in national budgeting processes, stressing that flexibility was needed in this regard. The secretariat responded that preliminary analysis suggested that the proposed timing of the pledging session would be a major step forward in determining clear resource availability at an earlier time, and assured delegations that they would be kept informed of the outcome of discussions on budgetary processes with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. (See annex II, decision 2000/3, for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board.)

D. Funding meeting

105. The Executive Director opened the funding meeting by recalling that the Executive Board, in decision 1999/8, agreed that Governments able to do so would announce each year, at the first regular session of the Board, their voluntary contributions to UNICEF regular resources and their payment schedules. She indicated that the funding meeting constituted an important element of the MYFF. She referred to the letter she had sent to all United Nations Member States, which explained that the purpose of the meeting was to obtain increased resources in a manner that would make regular resources more certain and predictable and would assure greater burden-sharing among Governments.

106. In presenting an analysis of letters of response received from Member States, the Executive Director referred to the matrix contained in "Pledges for 2000 (as of 28 January 2000)" (E/ICEF/2000/CRP.4). (See annex I for an updated matrix.) She recognized that some Member States had not been able to communicate in writing their contributions to regular resources, and stated that she looked forward to hearing from them at the funding meeting, or as soon thereafter as possible, hopefully by April.

107. The Executive Director provided an analysis of the responses received. Forty-eight countries had pledged $251 million, which represented 68 per cent of MTP projections for government contributions. Of these 48 countries, 14 had indicated increases over their previous contributions. Eight Governments had provided precise payment dates. Five and four countries, respectively, had made tentative pledges for 2000 and 2001. Six out of 10 of the largest donors had pledged 65.5 per cent of the MTP government funding target for 2000. Seven of the 21 Development Assistance Committee countries had made pledges for the year 2000. Of these seven Governments, two had increased their pledges over the previous year, one had decreased its pledge, and the rest had maintained their pledges at the same level. Twenty-seven programme countries had made pledges for the year 2000.

108. The Executive Director thanked programme countries for their support and indicated that in addition to contributions to regular resources, four pledges had been made to support the local operating costs of country offices. She noted that on the basis of the pledges received, she believed it would be possible to meet the MTP projections for government contributions for the year 2000.

109. The Executive Director opened the floor of the funding meeting. Thirty-two delegations made interventions: 13 delegations of programme countries; and 19 delegations of donor countries. Taking into account firm pledges, indicative pledges and the statements of those unable to make pledges at that point in time, but who expected to exceed current levels of support (using the current levels of support), the total government contributions at current exchange rates amounted to 94.4 per cent of the MTP projection of $363 million from Governments for the year 2000.

110. Many delegations endorsed the MYFF, and several linked their pledges to their commitment to the funding framework. In making their announcements, a number of delegations commended the work of UNICEF. Delegations from programme countries commented on the symbolic nature of their contributions, revealing their Governments' intention to convey, through their support, their sincere appreciation to UNICEF and the importance attached to the work of the organization. In addition, some delegations of programme countries announced contributions to local costs.

E. Report of the Executive Director (Part I): Annual report to the Economic and Social Council

111. The Director, Office of United Nations Affairs and External Relations, introduced the Executive Director's annual report to the Economic and Social Council (E/ICEF/2000/4 (Part I)). He provided an update of activities that had occurred since completion of the report, and noted that a paper on outstanding issues would be prepared for the Economic and Social Council by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), with the full participation of UNICEF. This paper would also provide an update on United Nations reform.

112. Several delegations expressed their satisfaction with the content, structure and format of the report. There was a proposal by one delegation, with support from a number of others, that more information be provided on follow-up to international conferences and summits, particularly the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the International Conference on Education for All. The Director informed the Board that the next report would include more material on the role of UNICEF in follow-up to conferences and most likely would contain less information on reform issues, which could be covered in the UNDG consolidated list of issues and by such methods as the participation of country teams in joint meetings of the Executive Boards of UNICEF and UNDP/UNFPA.

113. Responding to questions concerning support for country offices, the Director stated that an innovative component of support in the UNDAF/CCA process was a pool of 20 to 25 facilitators from the United Nations Secretariat, funds, programmes, specialized agencies and regional commissions, who would be deployed at the request of country teams at critical times in the process. UNICEF had committed two staff members to this exercise. These facilitators would be available for up to four weeks per year and would wear "United Nations hats" while on assignment.

114. A number of delegations raised questions concerning the relationship of UNICEF to the World Bank, and between the UNDAF/CCA and the Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF) processes. The Director stated that cooperation with the World Bank was important for many reasons, including the fact that the Bank was a partner in the Administrative Committee on Coordination/Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions machinery and, therefore, an integral part of the development of UNDAFs and CCAs, poverty frameworks and conference follow-up. The Bank had been involved in most UNDAF/CCA processes to date. The CDF process was still evolving and existed currently in only a limited number of countries. There were four countries which had both UNDAF/CCA and CDF mechanisms, and in two, Mali and Viet Nam, UNICEF was looking at the relationship between the two. Whatever relationship might evolve, the secretariat emphasized that the Government would take the lead in both processes. With regard to the CCA, the World Bank had indicated that it would provide significant input in assessment of the country situation.

115. Country-level follow-up to conferences was undertaken with a view to ensuring consistency of approach among United Nations agencies, primarily through the Administrative Committee on Coordination machinery. Starting with the three inter-agency task forces, including one on Basic Social Services for All, the Committee developed detailed guidelines for coordination. Poverty eradication was

the over-arching theme for conference follow-up. The UNDAF/CCA processes, under the leadership of Governments, took as one of its fundamental building blocks the follow-up to conferences.

116. The Director stated that capacity-building was a major priority for UNICEF and the entire United Nations system. Work done on the assessment, monitoring and evaluation of capacity-building was undertaken in a programmatic manner, drawing on UNICEF experiences and those of external partners, including bilateral development agencies. The process of developing a conceptual framework and appropriate monitoring and evaluation tools was leading to a clearer definition of the various interpretations of capacity-building and, thereby, to a sharper focus on more effective programmes. The Director stated that capacity-building could not be done programme by programme or agency by agency. Therefore, UNICEF had joined with the United Nations system in developing a system-wide set of guidelines.

117. Regarding the training of peacekeepers on issues related to children's rights, UNICEF membership on the Executive Committee on Peace and Security provided the opportunity to advocate further and build on the work being done in collaboration with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to develop training packages for peacekeepers.

118. A number of delegations expressed their concern over the low number UNICEF staff, and especially female staff, serving as resident coordinators. The Executive Director stated that this was a high priority for the organization. She reported that in addition to staff members serving as resident coordinators, UNICEF currently had staff seconded to East Timor, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNAIDS and the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships. Concerning the appointment of women, UNICEF was looking into ways to increase the numbers, either through fast-tracking of female staff members currently at the mid-management level or going outside the system to Governments and other institutions. In those cases, candidates would need to spend time in deputy posts to become familiar with the United Nations system and other organizations.

119. On the harmonization of procedures, UNICEF was working to go beyond the harmonization of budget formats and terminology, which had been completed a year ago. Working within the UNDG, three new areas were being examined: guidelines for joint MTRs; common formats for joint programmes; and the remuneration of project personnel. There was already standardization of a range of common services, starting with travel and conference servicing. The Director stated that there existed a database of experiences in 130 countries. Individuals from the funds and programmes were reviewing CCAs/UNDAFs in nine countries from a "lessons learned" perspective (sharing lessons and good practices, monitoring progress and application of guidelines, etc.). (See annex II, decision 2000/4, for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board.)

F. Report on the second session of the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health

120. The report of the second session of the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA CCH (E/ICEF/2000/7), held at WHO Headquarters in Geneva on 2 and 3 December 1999,

was introduced by two members of the Committee. They described briefly the content of the report and emphasized the high priority that was given during the session to follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The primary areas of consideration before the CCH were maternal mortality, adolescent health, mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS and immunization.

121. It was generally felt to have been a positive and open meeting, and the presence of the heads of the three organizations was extremely valuable. The Committee agreed, however, that in order for the meeting to be more productive, perhaps its terms of reference could be interpreted liberally so that meetings could be held more often, thus making the agenda more relevant and allowing for continuity of participation and follow-up. It was further agreed that the agenda should contain fewer items and that there should be far fewer action points in the final report. It was suggested that the majority of members of the CCH have a technical background, a point supported by delegations. Meeting deliberations should include a presentation by a country team to demonstrate and evaluate activities of the three agencies.

122. It was further agreed that reporting should use a common format and that CCH members should request their Boards to review membership so that the same person could hold the appointment over time. In the ensuing Board discussion of the report, a number of delegations agreed that meeting every two years was perhaps not conducive to achieving the objectives of the Committee. Delegations also supported continuity of membership.

123. In its report, the CCH promoted coordinated planning at the country level. Increased political commitment and national leadership in key countries was emphasized, and the creation of maternal theme groups, with international agencies and national stakeholders, was suggested. A number of delegations raised concerns, however, as to whether theme groups were necessary for adolescent and women's health.

124. One delegation stated that there were ethical issues involved in infant feeding practices of HIV-positive mothers. This was a very important area for UNICEF, which was working closely with WHO to follow up on studies conducted the previous year. Preliminary findings suggested that exclusive breastfeeding might be less likely to transmit infection than mixed feeding. Some delegations expressed an interest in having further information on the pilot projects that UNICEF was supporting for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS and the use of suitable anti-retroviral drugs. A few delegations highlighted the importance of taking a broad perspective in dealing with the issue of HIV/AIDS and questioned how responsibilities were being distributed among the agencies.

125. Polio eradication efforts were also reviewed during the meeting. A number of delegations stressed the importance of raising additional funds very quickly if the disease was to be eliminated by the end of 2000. In certain countries, United Nations agencies needed to review the decline in immunization coverage and the capacity-building efforts required. The creation of GAVI was commended.

126. The importance of SWAPs was also emphasized by many delegations, which stressed that United Nations agencies were supporting interventions in the context of

health sector reform efforts. This would enhance the harmonization of donor and government assistance as well as improve sustainability of development efforts.

127. Many speakers expressed appreciation for the efforts made by all three agencies and the work undertaken in both the preparation and coordination of the CCH session. A number of delegations concurred that the agenda should be pared down considerably, since too many issues had been addressed during the second session. The Executive Director agreed that the number of topics addressed needed to be reduced. However, since the session had been devoted to ICPD follow-up, which addressed a broad range of issues, there were more agenda items than would usually be the case.

128. Some delegations stated that since there were 33 action points that required follow-up, it would be very difficult for all agencies to report on all recommendations. There was a need to focus on the most relevant, and the three agencies needed to review the division of responsibilities.

129. Observations of the Executive Board would be conveyed to WHO and UNFPA. The next session of the CCH would be held early in 2001, and preference was expressed that it be held in New York. (See annex II, decision 2000/5, for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board.)

G. Other matters

130. Noting that recent Executive Board sessions were taking fewer days than scheduled, one delegation suggested that two 5-day sessions would be preferable to three sessions, so as to utilize the time fully.

H. Closing of the session

131. In her closing remarks, the Executive Director expressed appreciation to the Board on behalf of the secretariat. She said that discussions on the country notes and on managing for results had been very fruitful. Although she had not been present for the discussion on PSD, she understood that it, too, had been very useful. She appreciated the dialogue and looked forward to informal meetings that would be held during the year in addition to the formal sessions. She referred to a recent luncheon briefing on children in situations of conflict, and stated that it was the intent of the secretariat to continue these type of briefings and requested the participation of the Board. She hoped that delegations would call on the secretariat throughout the year for any information they might need.

132. The President noted the comprehensive nature of the session, which included the first time the MYFF had been discussed and the first time that there had been a funding meeting. He announced that a draft statement on the joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNICEF and UNDP/UNFPA, with the participation of WFP, which was held on 31 January, had been circulated and was being shared with UNDP and WFP. He noted that the President of the Executive Board of WFP suggested that the next joint meeting be held in Rome, as the three others had been held in New York.

133. The President relayed a suggestion made to him that during the annual session for the year 2000, the chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

should address the Board to report on what the Committee had done the previous year. As regards the length of sessions, he agreed that perhaps the duration could be reduced to four days.

134. He notified the Board that the following week, the organizational session of the Preparatory Committee for the General Assembly Special Session for Follow-up to the World Summit for Children in 2001 would be held, and he urged all members to participate actively in the process. The chairperson of the Preparatory Committee had suggested that a joint meeting of the Bureaux of the Preparatory Committee and the UNICEF Executive Board be held.

III. Joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNICEF and the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund and the World Food Programme

135. The President of the UNICEF Executive Board opened the joint meeting. He informed the Boards that a presidents' statement would be circulated later in the week. The Secretary of the Planning Commission of the Government of India introduced the UNDAF for India. He noted that the UNDAF could engender far-reaching changes in the manner in which the United Nations system functioned in India, which could improve both its effectiveness and the recognition it received. The process of developing the UNDAF had been one of close collaboration between the United Nations system and the Government. He underlined that the primary objectives included in the UNDAF represented the collective decisions of a wide range of government agencies, including the Planning Commission, which had served as the focal point.

136. The UNDAF for India had two main objectives, gender equality and decentralization, both critical elements of the Government's Ninth Five-Year Plan. The objectives were chosen for their relevance to United Nations agency mandates and were determined to be precise enough to give adequate focus in programme design, implementation and evaluation. He noted that in addition to the Government, such stakeholders as civil society organizations, academic institutions and businesses had been involved.

137. With regard to gender equality, a targeted approach to the physical and economic welfare of women was required, reinforced at every possible point by the society at large and development agencies. For the objective of decentralization, accountability was a key element, in which localized services needed to include delivery that was accountable to the people who were served.

138. The United Nations Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative in India cited the 50 years of United Nations system cooperation with the Government, which had addressed a range of development priorities. She noted that the Minister of External Affairs of India had recently made a plea for development to be the cross-cutting theme of the United Nations, and he called for strengthening the United Nations development system. India itself had reached many development milestones, she underlined, with the United Nations development system contribution constituting less than 6 per cent of official development assistance, which in turn was only a fraction of India's total development effort. In that regard, the United Nations system contribution could be seen more in terms of ideas,

exchange of expertise and pilot projects which had been widely replicated. United Nations organizations were already working closely with the Government on the two objectives of the UNDAF. It was believed that greater synergy among the organizations would bring greater effectiveness.

139. The UNFPA representative in India described the process of developing the UNDAF, beginning with the establishment of a task force in 1997. Gender equality was selected as the first objective, as it cut across the work of all United Nations organizations and required a holistic approach, which included the Government, NGOs and other partners. A workshop held in early 1999 identified decentralization, a process that had been growing in importance in India since 1992, as the second focus area for the UNDAF. Decentralization was also seen as a means to correct gender imbalances and promote women's empowerment. As a next step, the goals to be achieved in gender equality were defined: (a) renegotiation of gender relations within the household and the community; (b) greater access and control over resources by women; (c) expanded participation of women in all spheres, including reproductive decisions, political institutions and the marketplace; and (d) greater discussion and dialogue on policies and legislation on equal rights for men and women. As regards decentralization, the following focus areas were defined: (a) participation in decision-making by the least advantaged groups, including women; (b) enhanced effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of basic social services as a result of community management; and a greater transparency and accountability of local government programmes.

140. The WFP representative in India discussed the operational objectives of the UNDAF process, noting that the United Nations system had more organizations in India than in any other country and covered a wider range of mandates. The UNDAF process would facilitate harmonization of programming cycles and operational procedures among the United Nations organizations and with the Government. As a first step in operationalizing the UNDAF, areas of collaboration were identified. With regard to gender equality, it was determined that a gender policy assessment, including the development of tools and indicators, would provide a frame of reference for choosing priority areas. Collaborative actions between organizations, parallel programmes based on a common problem and joint programmes or projects developed by several United Nations bodies were under consideration. The United Nations system would work with the Government to ensure that both objectives of the UNDAF were included in the Government's next five-year plan.

141. The UNICEF representative in India cited the dialogue to improve collaboration and development activities as one of the most interesting features of the UNDAF process. Areas of cooperation had included a common position paper on child labour, work in HIV/AIDS through UNAIDS, primary education and, in response to the super cyclone in Orissa in October 1999, collaborative efforts through the United Nations Disaster Management Team. United Nations organizations were beginning to re-examine their programmes, taking into account the promotion of gender equality and strengthening of decentralization, and were attempting to allocate and channel resources for collective action. He noted that in a country the size of India, and with the relatively small financial contribution of the United Nations system, the extent to which the system could promote new ideas, leverage public support and encourage the channelling of public resources into critical areas was of great relevance. Bilateral partners had responded very positively to the UNDAF process. Forging of partnerships with other development

agencies had also been very effective, especially in such areas as giving women a public voice and increasing attention to disadvantaged girl children.

142. The President of the Executive Board of WFP took over as Chair. Many delegations welcomed the presentations and information provided on the UNDAF process in India, which they felt was a positive example of collaboration at the country level. Speakers praised the clarity of the objectives and noted the full ownership of the Government, as well as the harmonization with the Ninth Five-Year Plan.

143. Delegations raised a number of issues in response to the presentations. Given the vast size of the country, some speakers wondered whether the actions of the United Nations country team would have a lasting effect in promoting gender equality and decentralization. Information on operationalization of the UNDAF at the national, state and local levels was sought.

144. Many questions addressed the programming processes of the United Nations organizations in India, including how the country team had adapted to the long-term planning cycle of the Government, and if country programmes of individual organizations had been affected. Several delegations noted the high quality of the CCA in India. Queries were raised about problems faced in joint programming; maintenance of the individual identity of participating organizations; the time-frame for collaborative action; incorporation of global conference goals in the UNDAF; and phasing out of less strategic activities. Some speakers requested specific information on programmes, including cooperation in emergency situations and whether disadvantaged women were involved in planning processes. One delegation queried whether children were included in decision-making in programmes on their behalf, and whether disabled people were given rights to health and education. The same speaker requested information on whether the rights-based approach of UNICEF had affected programming in other organizations. Another delegation queried whether reporting by country offices had been streamlined through the UNDAF process.

145. Some delegations requested information on the percentage of funding that was devoted to the UNDAF by each fund and programme. Others expressed interest in the amount of savings achieved. One delegation queried whether joint resource mobilization had taken place. With regard to cooperation with the Government, speakers raised queries about internal coordination between departments and ministries and coordination between central and local governments, as well as about the impact of the UNDAF on the work of the ministries.

146. Several speakers requested information on the role of other organizations in the UNDAF process, including, in particular, the World Bank. Many delegations mentioned the World Bank CDF. Some speakers queried whether bilateral donors could have a more enhanced collaborative role in the process. One delegation underlined the need for strategic partnerships beyond the UNDAF, including with the private sector, particularly in information technology.

147. A number of delegations underlined that the teamwork described had indicated that much progress could be achieved. Information was requested on monitoring of progress of the UNDAF. Others queried how lessons learned in India would benefit other UNDAF countries, including smaller countries.

148. The President of the WFP Executive Board noted the interest of the members of the Food and Agriculture Organization Council, as well as of the governing body of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, in the CCA and UNDAF processes. The WFP Executive Board had cited many positive aspects of the process as well, noting the savings inherent in United Nations coordination. The transparent identification of problems in the UNDAF process in the papers and the oral presentations had been very useful. She noted that in India there had been much progress in achieving food security, yet it remained a problem in some areas. She hoped that food security would continue to be a focus in taking account of the needs of vulnerable groups in the country.

149. The Secretary of the Planning Commission, Government of India, underlined that the UNDAF should not be measured in terms of dollars spent, because grant aid accounted for a very small portion of India's annual development budget. The important element was to maximize the impact — and mainstream the stated objectives — of gender equality and decentralization. He noted the synergy between multilateral donors and bilateral agencies, as well as cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions. Lessons learned and information sharing were particularly important factors in the UNDAF process. With regard to the specific objectives of the UNDAF in India, he noted that efforts in achieving gender equality and decentralization must relate to the nature of the problem, and that funds, policies and projects should be integrated to maximize benefits to target groups. Planning committees had been established to coordinate the development efforts of the ministries involved in the UNDAF process. He noted that the UNDAF should not be seen as a programme that would supplant other development efforts, but rather as a tool to improve performance and impact.

150. The United Nations Resident Coordinator/Resident Representative cited cooperation with the World Bank throughout the UNDAF process and noted that India was not developing a CDF. She informed the Boards that the World Bank was in the process of designing a gender mainstreaming policy and had assisted the UNDAF process with provision of expertise in gender mapping, participation in inter-agency exercises and co-sponsorship of workshops. She responded to a number of other queries raised, including affirming the intention to work with the private sector on information technology, the need for a new, non-appeal process for disaster relief and the positive effect of the "capabilities approach" in assessing gender equality.

151. The UNICEF representative cited the positive feedback the country team had received for its disaster management in responding to the cyclone in Orissa. He noted that the disparity between the planning cycle of the Government of India and the country programmes of individual funds and programmes would be overcome in harmonization of programme cycles with the Government's Tenth Five-Year Plan in 2003. He cited the success of working in a decentralized government structure, with the funds and programmes operating at the state level. In that regard, he noted that a great deal of funding was being funnelled directly through states. In the area of HIV/AIDS, he stated that the United Nations Theme Group comprised bilateral and multilateral organizations, including the World Bank, together with the Government. One of the lessons learned had been that it was not necessary to place all United Nations activities into an UNDAF; rather, focusing on strategic themes could add value. Experience had shown that rapid and effective collaboration was possible, even within existing procedures of each organization.

152. The UNFPA representative underlined that the large number of United Nations organizations in India made the process somewhat slower than in other UNDAF countries. Much had been achieved in collaborative action, he noted, and more was expected over the next two to three years, before the start of the next planning cycle. The campaign on violence against women was an excellent example of United Nations agencies working together to produce results. He stated that savings had been identified in operational areas. He noted that bilateral organizations could be involved at both national and state levels in connection with each UNDAF objective, with bilateral participation in the HIV/AIDS theme group a good example.

153. The WFP representative stated that some joint programming had been initiated, such as in disaster management. He cited the common databases and indicators developed through inter-agency processes as positive examples of collaboration, including at the district level. Food security would be taken into consideration in the UNDAF process in connection with the focus objectives.

154. The President of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA closed the joint meeting with a summary of the discussion. He acknowledged the dynamic leadership of the Government of India in the direction and ownership of the UNDAF process. During the meeting, a lively and comprehensive debate had taken place, with many important suggestions and comments. He noted that the strategic focus of the UNDAF in India in promoting gender equality and decentralization, backed by a well-articulated CCA, was in line with General Assembly resolution 53/192. The inter-agency working groups at the country level had been strengthened with the direct involvement of the Government and bilateral development agencies. The UNDAF process in India had been very inclusive, with a spirit of collaboration firmly in place. The comments on working closely with the Bretton Woods institutions were noted. In sum, the meeting had been very constructive, and future joint meetings would be considered when agenda items were such that joint deliberations would bring added value to the organizations concerned.

Part Two
2000 annual session

Held at United Nations Headquarters from 22 to 25 May 2000

I. Organization of the session

A. Opening of the session

155. The composition of the Bureau of the Executive Board was as follows:

President:
H.E. Mr. Anwarul Karim Chowdhury (Bangladesh)

Vice-Presidents:
Ms. Lala Ibrahimova (Azerbaijan)
H.E. Mr. Alberto Salamanca (Bolivia)
Mr. Luc Schillings (Netherlands)
H.E. Mr. Mubarak Hussein Rahmtalla (Sudan)

The President of the Executive Board welcomed delegations to the first annual session of the new millennium, stressing that it was a momentous juncture for UNICEF and millions around the world who championed the cause of children. The year 2000 marked the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Children, providing the international community with an opportunity to reflect on its work for children over the past decade. The year assumed even more importance as the beginning of the process that would lead to the General Assembly Special Session on Children, to be held in September 2001, which would review implementation of the promises made by world leaders at the World Summit.

156. The President noted that the recommendations and conclusions of the discussion of the emerging issues for children in the twenty-first century — the centrepiece of the Board's deliberations — would be summarized in a President's report and submitted to the Preparatory Committee of the Special Session being held the week after the Board. In that connection, he called for a debate focused on action-oriented issues. As the substantive secretariat of the Special Session, UNICEF should be well positioned to play a leading role at this pivotal moment in its history. He stressed that while UNICEF continued to work diligently to establish the rights of children as the core foundation of all development efforts, the challenges of the new century made it imperative that children were at the centre of all endeavours to promote a culture of peace worldwide.

157. The Executive Director remarked that UNICEF perhaps had reached the most important juncture in its 54-year history. A decade ago, Governments made solemn pledges to give every child a better future; and while 10 years later, there were many achievements to celebrate, the challenge now was to bring it to critical mass, i.e. to engage millions of additional people who could lead the fight for child rights at every level. The UNICEF concept of leadership for children was very broad, and she gave examples of some of the partnerships that would help to mobilize universal support for the future actions for children. She made particular mention of the direct and personal role to be taken by Nelson Mandela and Graca Machel in mobilizing leaders from every sphere to act on a basic recognition: "that if we want a more just, equitable and thriving world, we must invest in children now, acting always in their best interest". In that connection, she announced that copies of their joint letter would be distributed to the Board.

158. She reviewed the topics that were included on the agenda of the session, commenting especially on the role of UNICEF as the secretariat of the Preparatory

Committee for the Special on Children in 2001 and on the opportunity provided by the Preparatory Committee for UNICEF to reaffirm its focus on the "whole child". In closing, she recalled that Governments remained the primary actors in development, had to take the lead, had set the goals and had made the commitments. It was now time to ensure that in renewing that commitment: "we mark a turning point for children that transcends all".

B. Adoption of the agenda

159. The provisional agenda and timetable and organization of work of the session, as contained in document E/ICEF/2000/9, were adopted. The agenda contained the following items:

Item 1: Opening of the session: statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Executive Director

Item 2: Adoption of the provisional agenda and timetable and organization of work

Item 3: Report of the Executive Director (Part II)

Item 4: Emerging issues for children in the twenty-first century

Item 5: Follow-up to the World Summit for Children

Item 6: United Nations General Assembly Special Session 2001

(a) Oral report on the United Nations Special Session 2001

(b) Activities and budget for UNICEF secretariat support to United Nations General Assembly Special Session 2001

Item 7: Summary of mid-term reviews (MTRs) and major evaluations of country programmes

Item 8: UNICEF core corporate commitments in emergencies

Item 9: Proposed modifications to the budget process

Item 10: UNICEF Maurice Pate Award for 2000

Item 11: Reports on field visits of Executive Board members

Item 12: Other matters

Item 13: Closing of the session: remarks by the Executive Director and the President of the Executive Board

160. In accordance with rule 50.2 and the annex of the Rules of Procedure, the Secretary of the Executive Board announced that 66 observer delegations had submitted credentials for the session. In addition, one United Nations body, four specialized agencies, two non-governmental organizations (NGOs), six National Committees for UNICEF and Palestine had submitted credentials.

II. Deliberations of the Executive Board

A. Report of the Executive Director (Part II)

161. The Executive Board had before it for review part II of the annual report of the Executive Director (E/ICEF/2000/4 (Part II)). In her introductory remarks, the Executive Director noted that this was the second annual report on implementation of the medium-term plan (MTP) for 1998-2001 (E/ICEF/1998/13 and Corr.1) which sets UNICEF priorities and major areas of action, with special emphasis on achievement of the goals of the World Summit for Children and on implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The report represented an incremental step in the learning process towards results-based management and reporting, guided by the MTP, and was a serious attempt to satisfy the requirements of Executive Board decision 1999/7 (E/ICEF/1999/7/Rev.1) on this issue. Preparation of the report benefited from Board member comments on the previous year's report (E/ICEF/1999/4 (Part II)) and discussions during the first regular Board session of 2000 on the multi-year funding framework (MYFF) (E/ICEF/2000/5 and E/ICEF/2000/8 (Part I), decision 2000/3), as well as from consultations with United Nations agencies and bilateral organizations.

162. The participatory process of preparing the report provided an opportunity to enrich the analytical focus of UNICEF on results achieved, including through consideration of regional summaries of MTRs and evaluations. Further efforts to strengthen the analytical component included the use of panels for more in-depth reporting on particular themes, discussion of constraints encountered and identification of lessons learned. The summary reporting matrices developed for two of the four organizational priorities, as contained in annex I of the report, allowed for the aggregation of results. They also aimed to heighten visibility for linkages between priorities, major areas of activity, key results, constraints and lessons learned. In order to strengthen linkages in reporting on activities and expenditures, the summary reporting matrix for programme priorities included estimated expenditures against each area of action. In addition, specific reporting was provided on the use of the 7 per cent global set-aside from regular resources available for programmes, as established by decision 1997/18 (E/ICEF/1997/12/Rev.1). The Executive Director noted that the updated figures of total UNICEF income in 1999 were even higher than mentioned in the report. However, she expressed concern that other resources income had increased at a higher rate than for regular resources, which currently accounted for only 52 per cent of UNICEF total resources.

163. The Executive Director recognized that further improvements were needed in the ability of UNICEF to report on results and highlighted particular areas of focus. These included: the definition of specific objectives in the next medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) to provide a more solid basis against which to measure progress and identify key results for reporting; the application of lessons learned on aggregation in the current reporting process; continued improvements in objective-setting and organizational focus, along with the pro-active planning of thematic evaluations to help address the complex issues of attribution; and the development of a revised coding system to allow for more precise tracking and analysis of expenditures against organizational priorities and major areas of action. She welcomed further discussion and inputs from the Executive Board, as well as

continued processes of consultation and experience-sharing with other agencies to further improve reporting on results.

164. Many speakers commended UNICEF for the significant improvements in this year's annual report, which was acknowledged to represent an important step forward in implementation of decision 1999/7. Several delegations commented positively on the detailed, comprehensive and informative nature of the report; its strengthened analytical components; and the clear links drawn between activities and MTP priorities. It was recognized that the participatory process of reporting represented substantial staff input and had enriched the results-based culture within UNICEF. There was general agreement that annex I, containing the summary results matrix, was one of the most useful elements of the report as it allowed for improved reporting on results. Several speakers offered suggestions for further development of the summary matrices as a means of providing a clear and concise picture of what has been done, the main obstacles encountered, lessons learned and future focus, including through the development of both qualitative and quantitative indicators and consideration of a log-frame format. The panels were also appreciated for the in-depth analysis they offered.

165. At the same time, many delegations considered the report a "work-in-progress", with room for further improvement in both form and substance. They took note of and agreed with the Executive Director's identification of areas for improvement, and offered additional comments and suggestions. These included calls for clearer interlinkages between all elements of MYFF; stronger linkages between actions and results on the one hand, and lessons learned and future focus on the other; greater analysis of obstacles and constraints; more information on the allocation and distribution of funds to priority areas; and further development of the report as a concise, analytical document.

166. A number of delegations commented on the length of the report, which many felt to be too long, detailed and descriptive. A few speakers called for summary conclusions of major actions, results and lessons learned by section to allow a clearer picture to emerge which would, in turn, enable the Board to better exercise its oversight function. One speaker suggested a more selective focus on issues analysed. However, another speaker said that the length was not excessive in a document of such high quality and that the details contained in the report were enlightening rather than burdensome. At the same time, it was recognized that such an in-depth focus might not be sustainable each year. Another delegation expressed appreciation for the availability of the document on the Extranet, but urged more attention to its electronic formatting to ensure readability. Several other delegations raised issues related to the need to ensure the timely translation of the document into other languages, urging that steps be taken jointly with other concerned organizations at the appropriate levels to resolve the problem.

167. The Executive Director welcomed the useful comments and suggestions on the structure, focus and length of the report, noting that these would be taken into consideration in the organization's continuing efforts to craft a document useful for both Executive Board members and UNICEF. She mentioned in particular continued development of the summary reporting matrices, guided and encouraged by the positive comments received.

168. On substantive issues, several delegations expressed concern about the perceived lack of attention to or analysis of UNICEF partnerships in the report,

particularly in the context of the Common Country Assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework (CCA/UNDAF) process, but also in relation to cooperation with bilateral and multilateral agencies; participation by communities, NGOs and civil society; work with media; cooperation with National Committees; and, above all, government ownership of and implementation of programmes. Some speakers called specifically for more information on UNICEF participation with other actors in sector investment programmes (SIPs) and sector-wide approaches (SWAPs). Many of them pointed out that the goals and objectives for children could not be achieved by UNICEF alone, but depended on cooperation and coordination of efforts, which should be better reflected in the report. The complexity of issues related to attribution in reporting on results achieved through partnerships was also recognized.

169. The Executive Director agreed that collaboration with all partners was essential and indeed an integral part of all UNICEF activities. She noted that an attempt had been made to avoid duplication of information on partnerships presented in part I of the annual report, particularly in relation to CCA/UNDAF. She emphasized that the country programming process ensured that country programmes were anchored in partnerships with Governments and reflected country-level priorities. She also stated that partnerships with others were continually being strengthened, including through UNICEF participation in United Nations reform and CCA/UNDAF processes as well as through guidelines sent out for UNICEF participation in the World Bank Comprehensive Development Framework and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs). She mentioned a number of countries where UNICEF was participating in SIPs/SWAPs, noting that the increasingly multisectoral focus of UNICEF on the "whole child" would enable it to add value to these exercises. She drew attention to paragraphs 13-18 of the report on partnerships, which included information on emerging partnerships with young people, and to the panels which reflected partnerships at the programme level. She pointed to the challenge of efforts to report specifically on UNICEF results without appearing to undervalue partnerships and to identify the value added by UNICEF in the context of expanding partnerships.

170. Several delegations stressed the importance of national capacity-building for sustainable progress and urged that the annual report focus more on UNICEF experiences and lessons learned in this area. The Executive Director agreed that capacity-building was essential, adding that UNICEF supported capacity-building through its programmes. She mentioned collaborative work currently being carried out by UNICEF with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and others to monitor and evaluate capacity-building strategies, on the basis of experience in seven countries, in order to identify concrete results.

171. UNICEF success in resource mobilization, which resulted in an increase in total income over the projected amount for the year, was commended by numerous delegations. At the same time, they shared the concern voiced by the Executive Director that income from regular resources was not increasing at a rate proportionate to income from other resources, adding that this could represent a risk to the coherence of UNICEF programming. Several speakers urged Governments, especially under-performing ones, to maintain or increase contributions to regular resources, which should form the core support to UNICEF programmes, while others pledged continued support. Two speakers welcomed the prioritization of programme expenditures to least developed countries (LDCs), particularly those in

sub-Saharan Africa. However, as pointed out by a number of delegations, the flow of other resources contributions did not always reflect this priority focus. It was suggested that UNICEF provide more specific information on private sector contributions, and UNICEF was urged to continue its efforts to mobilize private sector resources, while not neglecting regular resources from Governments.

172. As requested by several speakers, the secretariat distributed updates of tables 3 and 4 of the report, which detailed UNICEF income by source of funding for regular resources and other resources, and UNICEF income by type of funding. The original tables had been prepared using provisional figures as the financial books of accounts had not yet been closed at the time the document was finalized.

173. A number of speakers referred to the global context described in the report, noting positive developments, particularly in relation to standards on children's rights, but deploring the major constraints to progress identified as rising poverty, debt and marginalization; the spread of HIV/AIDS; and the increasing incidence of armed conflict. Some delegations expressed appreciation for the clear progress achieved in spite of the difficult context, while others noted the work still to be done and appealed to Governments and all actors to further efforts to help fulfil the goals.

174. UNICEF work in strengthening the rights-based approach to programming was commended, and the organization was encouraged to continue its work in this regard, including in support of governments' obligations to fulfil these rights, in documenting best practices and in ensuring staff internalization of the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. One speaker said that the summary reporting matrix on programme priorities did not fully capture the rights-based approach, while another noted this absence particularly in relation to efforts to reduce infant and child mortality. Child protection was identified as a priority issue by a number of delegations. The need for greater attention to disabled children was highlighted, and UNICEF was urged to expand its current programme focus on the prevention of childhood disability to include the promotion and protection of the rights of disabled children. One speaker applauded the Executive Director's statement to the Security Council on the protection of children from the effects of sanctions. Other speakers stressed the need to continue efforts to combat sexual exploitation of children, child abduction, trafficking in children, child abuse and use of child soldiers. On the last issue, several speakers commented positively on the increased international concern for children in armed conflict as a result of advocacy efforts, while others asked for more information on UNICEF cooperation with other agencies and bodies, including the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict. The Executive Director referred to paragraph 14 of the annual report which identified the Special Representative as a key partner, and further noted that the Special Representative was participating in the meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the General Assembly Special Session on Children. She also stressed UNICEF participation in a number of mechanisms and collaboration with a range of other partners on humanitarian, peace and security issues.

175. On other programme-related issues, several delegations commented on the significance of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), noting with concern the falling rates of immunization coverage, particularly in Africa, and urged continued support to health systems to help sustain routine immunization. Mention was also made of the shortages in stocks of oral polio vaccine (OPV) which constrained polio eradication efforts. The Executive Director pointed to the

evolution in thinking in GAVI to ensure that it was supportive of routine immunization and agreed that capacity-building was necessary for sustainability. She acknowledged the problem of shortages in OPV, due partly to the enormous expansion of national immunization days (NIDs), adding that efforts were under way to address this so as to ensure adequate stocks through 2005.

176. Some speakers applauded successes in vitamin A supplementation, while others commented on the need to address continuing problems of malnutrition as an essential step in further reducing infant and child mortality, including through an intergenerational life cycle approach and a sustainable livelihood approach supported by a number of partners. The Executive Director agreed that malnutrition was a significant contributing factor in preventable child deaths.

177. A number of delegations highlighted the importance of a focus on education, including early childhood education and care; girls' education; improved quality of education; inclusive education; education in emergencies; life skills education for adolescents; and health education in schools, including for the prevention of HIV/AIDS. Some of the main points of the Dakar Framework of Action emerging from the World Education Forum, including the principle of education as a fundamental right and the key to sustainable development and lasting peace, were highlighted by the representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The Executive Director concurred with the key role attributed to education and welcomed further collaboration in this area.

178. The increased programme focus on adolescence was welcomed by a number of speakers, who urged UNICEF to play a catalytic role in this area. They identified a need for greater attention to problems of rising drug use and violence among adolescents, and pointed to the benefits of harnessing adolescent energy for development. One delegation welcomed the shift in focus in the water and sanitation sector from access to behavioural change, while pointing to the need for increased efforts to link hygiene and sanitation to early childhood care (ECC). Prioritization of HIV/AIDS was welcomed, as was UNICEF advocacy efforts in this domain. One speaker noted that collaboration with the World Food Programme would be useful in ongoing efforts to prevent mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of HIV/AIDS; another urged more research on MTCT and breastfeeding as well as a greater focus on primary prevention, particularly through education. A number of delegations wanted UNICEF to pay increased attention maternal mortality reduction, with an emphasis on the careful analysis of all causes (including unsafe abortions) and support for trained attendants at birth. Issues related to maternity leave were also raised.

179. Several speakers stressed the need to further define a focus for the Global Movement for Children, with one speaker commenting that the depth of analysis and expertise reflected in the annual report demonstrated the sort of leadership role UNICEF might take in defining the way forward.

B. Summary of mid-term reviews and major evaluations of country programmes

Introduction

180. The Director, Programme Division, presented an overview of the 41 MTRs held during 1999. He noted that the reports allowed for updating of the analysis of the rights of children and women, and enabled incorporation of strategic adjustments to the design and content of programme components. The reviews also provided important lessons on key programme and management issues for the next country programme cycle. He stated that the MTRs contributed significantly to the organization's results-based reporting, within the MYFF by providing the Executive Board with country-level reports on programme cooperation and major evaluations. While welcoming the improved quality of the MTRs, he noted a number of areas where improvements were still being sought, including the need for a stronger and more strategic use of evaluations in the reviews; a careful balance between time spent on the process of the review exercise and the benefits derived; and a broadening, where appropriate, of consultation and participation in the various components of each review.

181. Despite the adverse political and economic environment, he noted that the MTR reports demonstrated that progress had been possible, particularly in the area of immunization coverage. Among the constraints to programme implementation were the lack of sufficient national prioritization for the funding of basic services, weakness of accountability, and the challenge of ensuring adequate capacity for programme implementation. Commenting on lessons learned, he noted that the reviews were engaging a wider range of partners in the analysis of the situation of children and women. Changes to original programme goals and objectives had allowed for a greater focus on fewer project areas, with better-defined objectives. In addition, the reviews demonstrated that effective partnerships among the United Nations agencies and bilateral donors were essential for high-quality programming in order to address the factors affecting children's and women's rights.

182. The Director, Division of Evaluation, Policy and Planning (EPP), presented an overview of the major evaluations. She noted an improvement in evaluation capacity, performance management, cross-fertilization of experiences, and strengthening of data processing and analysis to prepare for the end-decade review. The substantive focus of the studies and evaluations was on the issues of armed conflict, HIV/AIDS, poverty, marginalization and gender discrimination. She stated that the studies and evaluations conducted in 1999 were of critical importance in introducing necessary adjustments and influencing policy decisions designed to promote the universal realization of children's rights and steady progress in the achievement of the World Summit for Children goals. These evaluations would, in turn, be of key relevance in the process leading to the Special Session on Children in 2001 and in shaping future actions for children.

183. In response to the overviews, one delegation noted that the MTR for the Sudan dealt primarily with UNICEF activities in southern Sudan, yet the report should have reviewed projects throughout the country. The speaker also called into question the impartiality of the report. The President stated that the issues raised would be addressed later in the session by the Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa.

184. Another delegation commented that further analysis of children with disabilities, sexual exploitation and gender awareness would be useful. He requested clarification on the use of inputs from the Committee on the Rights of the Child in the MTR process. It was noted that the thematic areas for evaluation were identical to those set out in the report on emerging issues for children in the twenty-first century (E/ICEF/2000/13), and information was requested on how the results of the evaluations would be operationalized as regards the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session.

185. The Director, Programme Division, stated that reports of the Committee on the Rights of the Child provided very valuable input at different stages of the country programme process, including the situation analyses and MTRs. The Director, Division of EPP, noted that the lessons learned from the evaluations would contribute to the achievement of better programme results and would be a key component of the review on emerging issues and in activities leading up to the Special Session on Children.

West and Central Africa

186. The Regional Director for West and Central Africa introduced the report, as contained in document E/ICEF/2000/P/L.21. She reviewed the diverse challenges in the region, as well the successes in improving the lives of children and women, highlighting the situation in the eight countries that carried out MTRs in 1999 — Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal and Togo. She stated that the MTRs and evaluations provided a number of lessons for UNICEF. There was growing ownership by Governments of cooperation programmes, which reflected the desire to place children at the centre of poverty eradication and highlighted the need to build national and local capacity. The MTRs also underscored the need for Governments, communities, NGOs and bilateral agencies to forge an alliance for a global partnership for the child. UNICEF-Government cooperation was enhanced when multisectoral programmes targeted populations at risk, whose participation was crucial. There was also a need to define programme objectives that contribute to the attainment of measurable national goals. She drew the attention of the Board to the importance of focusing on emerging problems that were taking on dramatic proportions in the region (the HIV/AIDS pandemic, malaria, genital mutilation of girls and women and child trafficking). She stated that the most innovative and promising development was the participation of youth in the defence of their rights.

187. Many delegations expressed appreciation for the quality of the document and the manner in which the information was presented, especially the clarity of the lessons learned. Several delegations spoke of the continuing importance of the work being done by individual countries to respond to the needs of thousands of refugees and the support required from the international community in this regard. One delegation welcomed the increasing exchange of information and appreciated being able to take part in the Regional Management Team meeting. Another delegation noted that not all MTR reports covered progress towards the global goals and felt that a more uniform reporting format would be helpful. Many speakers commended efforts to make the MTR process more participatory.

188. Several delegations expressed concern that the document indicated a lack of government ownership of UNICEF programmes in the *Côte d'Ivoire* and *Senegal*,

and suggested that greater attention be given by UNICEF and other partners to strengthening local institutions in the critical areas of planning and management, monitoring and evaluation, and statistics. This lack of ownership was seen as a potentially serious impediment to obtaining resources and other commitments for addressing the problems of children in the region in the twenty-first century.

189. Referring to emerging issues, one delegation asked about the extent to which UNICEF had adapted its country programming process to address new challenges. Another delegation sought additional information on how the recommendations in the MTRs would take into consideration the emerging issues, in particular the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Appreciation was expressed for the focus of some country programmes in the region on HIV/AIDS-related activities, but concern was voiced that the magnitude of the problem could very well overwhelm Governments and their partners.

190. Several delegations noted a lack of prominence of the Bamako Initiative in the MTRs and evaluations. One delegation asked about the compatibility of the Bamako Initiative and SWAPs. Other delegations expressed concern that some UNICEF country offices were not enthusiastic about participating in SWAPs.

191. A number of delegations outlined additional comments they planned to make under the agenda item on emerging issues, such as debt servicing and its impact on the lives of children and women, the impact of HIV/AIDS, continuing conflict, internally displaced persons and refugees, poverty and inequality.

192. In response to the comments, the Regional Director highlighted the situation in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, which had opened their boarders and hearts to refugees from neighbouring countries, and called for the guidance of Board members. She stressed that these countries, as well as others, required the support of the international community.

193. The Regional Director stated that compatibility between the Bamako Initiative and SIPs and SWAPs had been demonstrated in Ghana, where the health SIP was informed by the experiences of communities with the Bamako Initiative. The Initiative would be further strengthened during the coming year when specific activities for HIV/AIDS would be integrated and tested in some country programmes. She stressed that HIV/AIDS was both a current and emerging issue, and said that the region had supported ministers of health in the preparation of plans of action and advocacy strategies to combat the pandemic. These ministers were being encouraged to mobilize all available resources, including from other ministries.

194. Referring to the reduction of MTCT of HIV in the Côte d'Ivoire, she expressed the hope that the positive experience would be expanded to Burkina Faso and other countries in the region. Successes in the area of child trafficking, which was rampant in the region, had been reported, in particular the recent repatriation of more than 1,000 children from the Côte d'Ivoire to Mali. As a follow-up to a meeting on child trafficking in Libreville, Gabon, UNICEF planned to support another meeting focusing on legislation to curb the practice. Lessons were being drawn from the work of UNICEF in trafficking in Burkina Faso and Senegal, where emphasis was being placed on information, advocacy and education.

195. In response to whether the Senegal programme objectives had been too ambitious, the Regional Director stated that, based on the findings of the MTR, the

programme would be restructured as recommended, and that fund-raising efforts would be strengthened.

Eastern and Southern Africa

196. The Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa introduced the report (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.20), which summarized the MTRs for Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, and provided an overview of major evaluations undertaken in the region. His audio-visual presentation focused on the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS in Eastern and Southern Africa, which was the most affected region in the world. With only 4.8 per cent of the world's population, the region had 14.8 million people living with HIV/AIDS, or 48 per cent of the world's total. Some 11 million children in the region had been orphaned by AIDS and their numbers were rising. In most countries of the region, he said, the situation had become explosive.

197. While addressing many of the reasons for the low impact of past HIV/AIDS control and prevention programmes, the Regional Director also highlighted some of the promising results. These included the expanding MTCT prevention strategy and the protection of thousands of children against HIV infection, as well as good examples of child participation through youth-to-youth peer support activities. He noted that over $30 million had been allocated directly to UNICEF-supported HIV/AIDS programmes in the region in 1999-2000. He declared that UNICEF was planning to declare "a war of liberation" against HIV/AIDS in the region in 2000-2001. Support across society, including religious and civil society leaders, the private sector, etc., would be mobilized; both financial and human resources would be reallocated; and internal and external alliances against the disease would be strengthened. Although HIV/AIDS was a subregional problem, he stressed that it required a global response.

198. Delegations expressed appreciation for the impressive presentation, especially for its focus on the HIV/AIDS pandemic, which was one of the most crucial issues affecting children in the region. There was strong support for the strategy outlined by the Regional Director. UNICEF was encouraged to play a leadership role in the fight against HIV/AIDS and to share information and its experience with other agencies in this area. In that connection, collaboration with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) was seen as crucial. One delegation suggested that UNICEF should also take a lead role within the inter-agency response to the current drought emergency in the Horn of Africa in coordinating responses in the fields of water and sanitation, health and nutrition.

199. Several speakers raised the issue of access to drugs for poor people in developing countries suffering from AIDS. They suggested that a tripartite meeting involving the United Nations, developing countries and private pharmaceutical companies to identify possible solutions be organized.

200. In response to a query about UNICEF views regarding the funding needs of the global programme against HIV/AIDS in the region, the Regional Director said that it was necessary to move from the current individual donor approach to an intergovernmental response level in order to mobilize approximately $2 billion annually for the coming two years. He stressed that resource mobilization to combat HIV/AIDS could not be undertaken in the traditional way in view of the enormous

challenge of the pandemic. Another speaker underscored the need for funding the global programme to combat HIV/AIDS to become a priority for all.

201. The representative of UNAIDS said that the Regional Director's presentation showed the leadership role of UNICEF for children and adolescents, and that one area in which UNICEF should excel was in the capacity for partnerships at both global and country levels. He noted that UNICEF was an active partner in the International Partnership against AIDS in Africa. UNAIDS supported greater participation of those infected with HIV/AIDS. He urged UNICEF to accelerate action for AIDS orphans. In that connection, another speaker requested UNICEF to provide more information on programmatic experience in the region in responding to the specific needs of AIDS orphans. The Regional Director replied that AIDS orphans were being increasingly stigmatized and marginalized. As a result, the strategy adopted by UNICEF dealt with all orphans without distinction, giving first call to the neediest. He noted that in UNICEF experience, the best responses were built within communities themselves, stressing the critical need to strengthen the capacity of local communities.

202. Many delegations commented on the role of UNICEF in SIPs and SWAPs, which varied from country to country. One delegation stated that if UNICEF was expected to implement programmes within the context of the results-based approach as agreed when the MYFF paper was approved, then it would not always be possible for UNICEF to also participate in common basket arrangements in SIPs/SWAPs. The Regional Director informed the Board that a regional working group had been set up to assess UNICEF experience to date and to recommend the best approach for its future role in the SIPs/SWAPs exercise.

203. In response to a query about the extent to which UNICEF was involved in poverty analysis in the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, the Regional Director said that all countries in the region had participated in the poverty assessment and analysis work, together with other partners, focusing on child survival.

204. With regard to *Lesotho*, *Namibia* and *Rwanda*, speakers expressed their support for the reorientation of the country programmes following the MTR to focus on HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment and on support to AIDS orphans.

205. Several delegations encouraged UNICEF to more involved in SIPs/SWAPs in *Malawi* and the *United Republic of Tanzania* and to assume leadership in the health and education sectors, as necessary.

206. *South Africa's* joint MTR approach was commended by numerous speakers. It was stressed that this good practice, which needed to be replicated in other countries, would strengthen United Nations integration, especially where programmes had been harmonized. Appreciation was also expressed for the focus on the problems of HIV/AIDS and violence against women.

207. On the *Zambia* MTR, HIV/AIDS and the debt burden were singled out as the major constraints to the country's social and economic development. It was noted that the MTR had been conducted in a very participatory manner. One delegation stressed that the lack of national capacity mentioned in the report needed to be taken into account in the future. For example, the programme could be more selective in identifying priorities. The same delegation stated that the negative comment made

about SIPs/SWAPs in paragraph 54 of the report was unjustified. Therefore, he urged UNICEF to play a more constructive role in this area.

Americas and the Caribbean

208. The Regional Director introduced the report contained in document E/ICEF/2000/P/L.22, which covered the country programmes of Argentina, Belize, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama and Uruguay. He noted that these were the first MTRs in the region to assess country programmes that had been developed using a child rights approach. Overall, the MTRs showed not only the positive results that came from focused work in rights-based programming — in terms of legislation, institutional change and public commitment to child and adolescent rights — but also the positive and strong support that can be elicited from government counterparts and other partners for a rights-based focus.

209. The Regional Director outlined the major lessons that could be drawn from the reviews, including that child rights-based programming was becoming the norm throughout much of the Americas and the Caribbean, that legal reforms were a necessary step and that the development of solid partnerships was key. He noted major lessons pertaining to UNICEF programme management, among them a willingness to make programming changes and a need to adjust the structure of some UNICEF offices to better promote the rights of children in transitional country contexts (such as the Southern Cone). As regards major evaluations carried out during 1999, the Regional Director noted that in many cases the focus was on issues, which linked well to the MTR process.

210. Many delegations commented favourably on the report and appreciated the very broad range of issues and situations covered. Delegations highlighted the problem of enormous disparities in income in many countries and welcomed the focus on the poorest groups and regions. It was noted that the implementation of a rights-based approach was bringing positive results. Among regional concerns highlighted by some delegations were the problem of debt, which was affecting many countries' ability to respond to old and new challenges such as HIV/AIDS; maternal mortality; and adolescent pregnancy. One delegation brought to the attention of Board members the Vth Ministerial Meeting on Children and Social Policy in the Americas, to be held in October 2000, and the Xth Ibero-American Summit of Presidents and Heads of State, scheduled for November 2000, which would contribute to the development of priority actions for children and adolescents in the next century.

211. Several delegations referred to the serious problem of lack of birth registration and called on UNICEF to take the lead, noting that there were some 30 million undocumented children in the region. In his response, the Regional Director noted that UNICEF was already extensively involved in many countries in efforts to register all children as this was an essential step in children attaining their rights. The issue was receiving attention at the highest levels, having been taken up at various forums, including the Ibero-American Summit, a meeting of First Ladies, and the Latin American Episcopal Conference.

212. A number of delegations expressed support for the efforts under way in the region to involve and ensure the effective participation of children and adolescents, an area in which Latin America and UNICEF were undertaking pioneering work. In

this regard, the Regional Director mentioned the active involvement of children in electoral campaigns on a number of child rights issues. and gave the example of Mexico, where over 6 million children were expected to participate in a process expressing their own points of view regarding priorities in education and health. Similarly, several delegations welcomed the focus on partnerships, which was becoming evident in the work of UNICEF in the region.

213. Support was also expressed for the general progress in the promotion of children's rights and of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in general. One delegation sought clarification on what the "child rights approach" meant when working in the areas of health and education. The Regional Director gave the example of Venezuela, where, based on recently introduced legislation, NGOs working with disabled children were using the Child Code to ensure that all children with disabilities had the same right to education as other children. The extensive participation of children in indicating priorities in health and education was also a manifestation of the rights-based approach.

214. As regards the MTR for *Belize*, one delegation agreed with the views expressed in the report that there had been success in promoting legal and institutional reform, but considerable efforts were needed to strengthen institutional capacity for these improvements to bring actual results. The delegation felt that the difficulties and constraints that Belize faced were not sufficiently highlighted in the report.

215. Referring to the report of the MTR in his own country, the delegation of *Chile* noted that the review reflected the need to mobilize civil society to support the efforts of UNICEF and the Government to protect children's rights and promote the participation of adolescents in the programme. The delegation was surprised, however, to find the statement in the report that the effects of the Asian financial crisis on Chile's economy during 1999 brought into question the validity of the current development model. He believed that the statement lacked supporting evidence, in particular as the report also stated that the economy had grown by 7.8 per cent annually from 1990 to 1997, reducing poverty by one half. The Regional Director responded that the new President of Chile himself had indicated in his inaugural address the need for a change in the economic development model in Chile. Economic results were not being questioned; rather, the effects in terms of social development were being examined.

216. Regarding the *Dominican Republic*, one delegation felt that the provincial plans for reproductive health, child health and HIV/AIDS needed to be integrated into a larger social sector action plan so that rational goals could be set. A new initiative in health sector reform represented a good opportunity for coordination with UNICEF-supported decentralization efforts.

217. Referring to *Guatemala*, while agreeing with the conclusions concerning a lack of focus and coherence in the country programme, a number of delegations felt that the MTR lacked real analysis and a list of actual achievements. One delegation endorsed the need for an internal restructuring of the programme, as mentioned in the report. Another delegation appreciated the information contained in the MTR, the frankness of the conclusions and lessons learned, and the fact that the report highlighted the need to strengthen services for the Mayan population. Hope was expressed that a concrete monitoring and evaluation plan would be developed to allow UNICEF and the Government to measure progress in specific areas and ensure

impact and sustainability. Another delegation believed that UNICEF resources were too scattered among many projects, thus limiting their impact. He also felt that there was a need to strengthen inter-institutional cooperation and to improve monitoring and evaluation, in order to respond to government priorities and plans.

218. One delegation, referring to the programme in *Jamaica*, felt that the decline in immunization rates and the increase in rates of HIV/AIDS indicated that a strong focus was needed on monitoring of programme results to ensure maximum impact. The country delegation assured Board members that her Government was acutely aware of the figures and was taking steps to ensure that coverage returned to earlier levels. Another delegation expressed the view that UNICEF was the most effective United Nations agency in the country, but disputed the claim made in the report that access to sanitary facilities was almost universal.

219. In referring to the MTR in *Nicaragua*, several delegations highlighted the active role of UNICEF in the health sector, while commending donor coordination in support of the Code for Children and analysis of lessons learned. Appreciation was expressed by one delegation for the information provided locally to his Embassy on fund-raising activities in the wake of Hurricane Mitch. Another delegation urged UNICEF to focus it efforts on accelerating progress towards the World Summit goals. Targets would need to be set so that progress could be tracked properly. Another delegation commended UNICEF for promoting the child rights perspective in primary health care (PHC).

220. Referring to the recent election held in Haiti, the country's delegation expressed the hope that UNICEF would encounter fewer difficulties in implementing its activities in the new atmosphere of stability. The delegation noted, however, that UNICEF would need the support of all its partners to help Haitian authorities improve access to health care, immunization and education.

East Asia and the Pacific

221. The Acting Regional Director for East Asia and the Pacific presented the report (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.23), which covered the MTRs in Cambodia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia and the Pacific island countries, as well as three major evaluations. She highlighted that while the MTR countries were very diversified geographically, socially and economically, they shared a set of common problems, including intra-country social and economic disparities, malnutrition, child protection issues and changes in lifestyles. Thus, the MTRs suggested that more attention needed to be given to such issues as the effects of lifestyle changes, trafficking of girls, ECC, the needs of larger LDCs of the subregion and the mobilization of the private sector to support programmes for children.

222. She also touched upon the issue of country-based integrated monitoring and evaluation plans. She assured the Board that these would be reinforced by a strengthened regional monitoring and evaluation plan, with improved procedures for programme reviews and thematic evaluations, as well as an effective system for updating the situation analyses of children and women.

223. On the *Cambodia* MTR, one delegation welcomed the involvement of UNICEF in education and expressed appreciation for the rights-based approach of UNICEF to the national education reform effort. The same speaker wanted to see this learning

experience documented and shared with others. The Acting Regional Director concurred with the comment on the importance of education initiatives in Cambodia and assured the Board of UNICEF support to a rights-based approach in this area. The community-based approach of UNICEF was very valuable in this regard. She added that there was close collaboration in Cambodia between UNICEF and the multilateral development banks, including the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, in education as well as in other sectors in the context of SWAPs.

224. Concerning the MTR for the *Pacific island countries*, another delegation urged UNICEF to give priority attention to Kiribati, as the country needed support in the areas of education, water and sanitation, and governance. He said that his Government was providing assistance. In response, the Acting Regional Director confirmed that Kiribati had been highlighted as one of the priority countries in the programme for the Pacific island countries. In addition, UNICEF was part of the UNDAF process in that country. She acknowledged with appreciation the contributions made by the Department for International Development (DfID) (United Kingdom) in the region.

South Asia

225. The Regional Director for South Asia introduced the report on the MTRs in Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka and the four major evaluations conducted in the region in 1999 (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.24). He summarized the commonalities of the MTR outcomes, which included: sustained high coverage for the expanded programme on immunization; continued progress in salt iodization; the need for a new rights-based approach to reducing maternal mortality; and the positive impact of decentralized programming, together with community-based service outreach and life skills communication strategies. Some of the specific findings of each MTR, as well as the results of the evaluations, were also highlighted. The Regional Director concluded that integrated monitoring and evaluation had become a standard feature of UNICEF programmes of cooperation across the region. The extensive use of the Child Info database was helping to improve the availability and use of disaggregated data about women and children.

226. One delegation thanked the Regional Director for sharing the experiences of iodine deficiency disorder programmes and national immunization days (NIDs) in *Bhutan* and *Nepal*, which she felt could be replicated in her country. Another speaker expressed concern about the lack of mention of the role of the Government in the Nepal programme, adding that it appeared to be ineffective in targeting poverty and seemed to lack coordination. Despite the efforts of the SWAP for primary education, UNICEF still remained outside of the sector programme, using vertical programmes instead. She also referred to an imbalance between support to local government authorities and engagement of central government agencies. The UNICEF strategy of supporting decentralized planning for child development was commended by another delegation, which also urged UNICEF to continue to focus on priority national programmes as its leadership was crucial in this area. Concerning comments about the lack of coordination of programmes in Nepal, the Regional Director stressed that he viewed the programme as a model of coordination and collaboration, including with DfID and other United Nations agencies, and offered to discuss this issue on a bilateral basis. UNICEF believed that support to decentralization would help to overcome some of the difficulties encountered and

had been maintaining close relationships with central-level institutions such as the National Planning Commission. He reiterated the organization's commitment to national programmes.

227. Support was expressed for the life cycle approach reported on in the *Sri Lanka* MTR. Additional information was requested on what UNICEF was doing to support primary education, the rights-based approach and quality of basic services. The same speaker welcomed the emphasis on universal salt iodization, ECC and the psychosocial needs of children in armed conflict. She also requested more information on adolescents and encouraged UNICEF to share lessons learned on the participatory nutrition improvement programme. In response, the Regional Director confirmed that the programme was focusing increasingly on teacher training as a way to improve the quality of education. With regard to the participatory nutrition improvement programme, he said that even in an early stage, the training had improved the status of women at the community level and that efforts were being made to reduce the cost of the model. He agreed to share the lessons learned with other countries.

228. Commenting on the evaluation of the Integrated Community Development Project in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of *Bangladesh*, one delegation expressed appreciation to UNICEF for providing support to these populations. While the project had shown progress and had a positive impact on the social life of those hard-to-reach populations, overall progress had been slow owing to language barriers as well as to different cultural practices. It was felt that more needed to be done in the areas of PHC and basic education. The Government had accelerated activities in the region, and he appealed to UNICEF as well as donors to increase their support and look for synergies of programmes that would contribute to sustainable development. Another speaker requested more information about UNICEF partnerships in the project, such as with International Labour Organization (ILO). A question was also raised about how UNICEF would measure the impact of its strengthened advocacy efforts. The Regional Director assured delegations that UNICEF would continue to give priority attention to reaching the unreached.

229. Regarding the evaluation of UNICEF support to water and environmental sanitation (WES) in *India*, a speaker acknowledged that the Mark II model hand-pump had been developed in her country and that it had helped to reduce the workload of rural women. The use of the hand-pump had also helped to reduce morbidity and mortality rates. She also commended the partnership between her country and UNICEF in promoting the Mark II hand-pumps and wished to see similar collaboration in the area of sanitation. Another delegation wanted to know more about the shift in UNICEF support from water supply programmes to sanitation activities. The Regional Director concurred that Mark II hand-pumps represented the best endeavour for successful collaboration in the area of water supply. The quality of hand-pump production was an issue not only for India, but also for the region, and a regional network had been set up to monitor and respond to such concerns. He acknowledged that while progress had been made in water supply, safe sanitation remained a challenge, and communication for behaviour change required a huge and long-term effort. He said that he would like to be able to report at the next opportunity on more results related to behavioural change.

230. One delegation stressed the need for a holistic approach to the WES sector in *Pakistan*, especially through the use of simple, low-cost technologies. Another

delegation spoke positively about UNICEF involvement in the national social action plan and implementation of the reform agenda of Pakistan. He highlighted the need to improve basic education and PHC and was pleased to see that the focus of UNICEF support was consistent with government policy. He also concurred with the findings of the WES evaluation that sectoral coordination at federal and provincial levels was weak and welcomed UNICEF support to help the Government enhance coordination. A speaker highlighted national efforts in the health sector and in the provision of care for adolescents, stressing the importance of training to strengthen the capacity of local governments and communities. He said that UNICEF assistance was complementary and catalytic to social sector development and, as the new Government was in place, he felt that UNICEF needed to carry these successes further. He also mentioned that although Pakistan had a low level of HIV/AIDS prevalence, it was a high-risk country. In response, the Regional Director thanked delegations for their positive feedback on UNICEF support to the national social action plan and its engagement in the social policy dialogue with the Government which, he said, was making serious efforts to achieve its social sector goals.

Middle East and North Africa

231. The Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa introduced the report (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.25). He presented the results of MTRs for Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, the Palestinian programme, Sudan and Tunisia, and stressed the importance of each country situation in strategic adjustments to the programme of cooperation. The Sudan MTR analysis revealed that although the civil war environment had not been taken fully into account, some gains were made. In Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia, countries that had achieved most of the goals, the MTRs served to make the necessary adjustments to address disparities, strengthen and select appropriate actions, and develop advocacy. The Oman MTR was used to examine new modalities of cooperation, as Oman had fulfilled the criteria for the phasing out of regular resources, per Executive Board decision 1997/18 on the modified system for allocation of general resources for programmes. The Regional Director also referred to the varied use of evaluations: one cluster of evaluations was used to influence national policies, while another was used to improve programme design and increase impact.

232. Delegations expressed their appreciation to the Regional Director for achievements in the region, and urged continued and increased support from UNICEF. Recommendations were made to increase financial and technical support to such middle-income countries as the Islamic Republic of Iran, Morocco and Tunisia. It was noted that even countries that fell under Executive Board decision 1997/18 continued to require UNICEF assistance to ensure sustainability of goals and to reach unreached children.

233. Delegations raised the issue of partner participation in MTRs. It was felt that NGO participation in the *Morocco* MTR could have been better highlighted. In addition, it was recommended that partners such as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) should be made part of the MTR process. Given their importance for the protection of children and women, the need for programme strategies such as capacity-building and advocacy was discussed, especially in relation to the *Palestinian programme in the West Bank and Gaza*.

234. The Regional Director assured delegations that their recommendations on programme strategies were already reflected in recently approved country programmes, and would also be included in new country programmes. Expanding participation during MTRs would be taken up by the country offices of the region. He stressed that Oman's success story was a model and inspiration for what UNICEF hoped to achieve region-wide.

235. The Executive Director announced that paragraph 3 of document E/ICEF/2000/P/L.25 did not accurately reflect the situation as regards cooperation with the Government of Sudan. As a result, a corrigendum had been issued (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.25/Corr.1).

Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States

236. The Regional Director for Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States introduced the report for his region (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.26). The report contained summaries of the MTR for the Republic of Moldova and of seven major country programme evaluations. The MTR for the Republic of Moldova revealed a country that continued to be severely affected by the transition, with the pressure of poverty resulting in great hardship for most families. While several constraints were identified during the MTR process, it was also evident that the models of excellence on which the country programme was built had begun to progress beyond isolated projects. He also highlighted the strengths of UNICEF support to the various projects being evaluated, as well as the constraints, lessons learned and future actions. In conclusion, he paid tribute to Erieta Avdyli, a mother and UNICEF staff member in Tirana, Albania, who had been abducted and killed. This tragedy, he said, brought home the serious issue of violence against women, including domestic violence.

237. One delegation spoke about the problems faced by the Government of the *Republic of Moldova* during this period of transition. In tackling the challenges of a fundamental nature, it was obvious that the vulnerable segments of society, especially children, were the first who needed to be protected against the hardships of transition. Fully aware of this, the Government, with the broad support of civil society, had drawn up a comprehensive national agenda for the development and protection of children. The process of transition and the negative effects of the international economic and financial crisis had led to a steady increase in the number of homeless children, beggars and children not enrolled in school. In response, the Government had already taken appropriate steps to revise the laws on children's rights. The speaker expressed the hope that the Government of the Republic of Moldova, in cooperation with UNICEF, would be able to undertake further measures to match the increasing need for a more coherent and integrated approach to the different sectors. Delegations supported the view expressed in the report of the need to strengthen the UNICEF office in order to facilitate the management and implementation process of the country programme. The Regional Director assured delegations that UNICEF, its partners and the Government would work on a more coherent and integrated approach, focusing on emerging needs. The country continued to experience a difficult period of economic decline, and the UNICEF programme was being assessed and would be adjusted to respond to these challenges.

238. Another delegation endorsed the description in the MTR of the decline in the health and nutrition standards of the country, noting that the rising number of cases of HIV/AIDS infection were linked to the increased use of intravenous drugs. Therefore, since it was likely that the causes of death could be incorrectly attributed, there was a need for disaggregated data. He also spoke about the lack of attendance at school due to privatization and poverty. There was a need for UNICEF and other donors to explore this area further. In addition, donor programmes were encouraged to take the problem of literacy into increased account. UNICEF was also urged to address the absence of gender and work in the area of HIV/AIDS in its programme. The Regional Director replied that UNICEF would be focusing on the privatization process and resultant decrease in school attendance. The country continued to suffer from economic decline, and the UNICEF programme had been adjusted accordingly. He added that in preparing the country note to be presented to the Executive Board in 2001, UNICEF would carefully review the situation of out-of-school children. Other points mentioned in the context of gender and work would also be included.

239. The same delegation commented on the absence of international NGOs in the civil society sector, adding that it was an area that DfID would be attempting to address through a series of conferences. This would link such NGOs together to enable them to better access programme-level, capacity-building schemes and the DfID civil society "Challenge" fund. The speaker also felt that UNICEF had a role to play with other United Nations agencies in the country in attracting international NGOs. From the very beginning, said the Regional Director, part of the UNICEF strategy had been to work within the country, with DfID and other partners, to help develop and strengthen NGO involvement.

240. The same speaker commented on the joint UNICEF/DfID evaluation of *UNICEF preparedness and response during the 1999 Kosovo refugee emergency*. He noted that while it described the weaknesses, it provided no information on what UNICEF proposed to do in response. The Regional Director acknowledged that the report did not contain information on follow-up because it had just been published. He assured delegations, however, that all comments from a review of the evaluation had been carefully noted. He also said that he would be willing to share the details with all interested delegations.

Office for Europe

241. The Regional Director for Europe outlined the most notable achievements of the previous year in the region. The first was a revised cooperation agreement with the National Committees for UNICEF, which introduced an innovative approach that takes into account the different stages of development, challenges and capacities of the Committees, and provides standardized financial reporting forms.

242. The second, a joint planning process, which had been completed with 5 National Committees and was being finalized with another 18, would assist Committees to reach their maximum potential in quantitative and qualitative performance, and would improve UNICEF support to their work, based on key strategic and performance indicators. The process was also having an impact on UNICEF internal processes, leading to a clarification of responsibilities between the various divisions working with the Committees. Third, a global private sector fund-raising strategy had been approved that would be reflected in the UNICEF MTSP. In

a fourth area, efforts were under way to enhance partnerships with European institutions.

243. He reported that National Committees were very active in the Global Movement for Children. They would participate in the substantive session of the Preparatory Committee and would work with UNICEF to develop a global communication strategy. Finally, a set of additional indicators for industrialized countries had been developed for possible use in the end-decade review process.

244. The representative of the Standing Group of National Committees for UNICEF welcomed the new Regional Director for Europe and stated that his group was very satisfied with the new cooperation agreement that had been put in place following the joint planing process.

C. UNICEF core corporate commitments in emergencies

245. The Executive Director introduced the report on core corporate commitments in emergencies, as contained in document E/ICEF/2000/12. She highlighted the fact that the core corporate commitments represented the minimum response that could be expected from UNICEF to the needs of children and women in unstable situations.

246. Overall, delegations expressed support for UNICEF activities, in many cases providing examples, such as the cyclone in Orissa, India, and the earthquake in Turkey. They praised UNICEF for its forward-looking stance, adding that the report was clear and concise and articulated well the organization's commitments. It was suggested that the document would benefit by including a section that outlined UNICEF core strengths as well as weaknesses.

247. A number of delegations addressed the issue of the transition from an emergency to the post-conflict phase and long-term development, and requested information on UNICEF plans in that regard. UNICEF was encouraged to put in place mechanisms to bridge the gap between relief and development activities.

248. The importance of coordination between UNICEF and its partners was also addressed, in particular in relation to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). One delegation queried whether there would be further coordination with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Concern was expressed about issues related to duplication of work done by other agencies. One delegation stated that UNICEF was not working enough on "social disasters" and was not utilizing local capacities sufficiently.

249. Concerns were raised about the relationship between UNICEF and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. Clarification and further information were requested regarding the UNICEF strategy for implementing the core commitments. One delegation inquired whether UNICEF had established any special procedures for use during emergencies. Further clarification was also requested on UNICEF plans and actions to date in the establishment and maintenance of the global stand-by agreement and the Consolidated Appeal Process.

250. A number of delegations endorsed and stressed the importance of UNICEF efforts to provide education during emergencies. UNICEF was urged to further

refine and develop its humanitarian advocacy strategies, and to focus more on the issue of children in armed conflict.

251. One delegation supported measures set in place by UNICEF to ensure that preparedness would be one of the key elements of accountability in meeting the needs of children and women in crisis situations. She reiterated her delegation's support of the adoption of the Optional Protocols and requested clarification of the division of labour as regards advocacy and programming in order to avoid duplication. She requested that UNICEF further define its responsibilities in protracted crises, and encouraged the organization to take practical measures to ensure that programmes in support of children and women not be interrupted. The delegation encouraged timely deployment of staff and resources, and inquired as to whether the implementation of the core corporate commitments would require additional resources.

252. Another delegation expressed interest in the peacekeeping training currently being developed by UNICEF and expressed support for child rights-based programming. One delegation promoted the role of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in leading protection measures and questioned UNICEF activities in this regard. Another delegation questioned the appropriateness of UNICEF operating outside its traditional areas, such as water and sanitation, health and nutrition.

253. In her response, the Executive Director stated that UNICEF was aware that it was not responding perfectly in all emergencies and was seeking to avoid duplication of efforts. In many cases, UNICEF was on the ground before an emergency occurred and, therefore, had a special role to play. With regard to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, there was complementarity between his advocacy work and that of UNICEF. The organization was cooperating with him to encourage signing of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child during the Millennium Assembly in September 2000. She highlighted the important role of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

254. The Director, Office of Emergency Programmes, said that IASC was dealing with preparedness issues. Regarding staffing and resources, training was being provided to existing staff. As for organizational learning, UNICEF had instituted a process to capture the lessons learned from emergency situations. For example, programmes were being developed in regional offices to deal with landmines. Coordination with OCHA was extremely close, and some UNICEF staff were serving as humanitarian coordinators. On the issue of burdensome procedures, UNICEF was taking a number of actions and was requesting Member States to provide more timely contributions. UNICEF was also working with ICRC on post-conflict situations within the framework of IASC.

255. The Director of the UNHCR Liaison Office at United Nations Headquarters made a statement. He referred to the deepening cooperation between his organization and UNICEF, which had become more crucial because of the escalation in the number and intensity of conflicts. He highlighted the areas of recent collaboration, namely, advocacy, emergency preparedness, the role of the military in humanitarian operations and staff security.

D. Follow-up to the World Summit for Children

256. The Executive Board had before it the progress report on follow-up to the World Summit for Children (E/ICEF/2000/11). The report was introduced by the Director, Division of EPP, who paid particular attention to the process of the end-decade review and its role in preparations for the General Assembly Special Session on Children, to be held in 2001.

257. Many delegations expressed their appreciation for the quality of the report and for the manner in which it had been presented. It provided a valuable overview of progress in implementing the World Summit Declaration and Plan of Action, and was an excellent contribution to the forthcoming substantive session of the Preparatory Committee. The emphasis given to improved data collection, including capacity-building at the national level, was commended. The limitations of sample surveys were also noted, however, as was the need for continued vigilance regarding quality of data and further efforts to strengthen capacity in the collection of subnational data.

258. A number of delegations expressed appreciation for the outline provided by UNICEF on the end-decade review process. Some delegations requested further information on timelines, the reviews planned in different regions and lessons learned from reviews already held. The increased prominence of children's issues in UNDAF was welcomed, as was the stronger partnership between the United Nations and the private sector.

259. Several delegations noted the great progress achieved since the World Summit, but concerns were expressed about the inadequacy of progress in such areas as maternal mortality, child malnutrition, water and sanitation, and education. Disparities in the rate of progress between and within regions, between rural and urban areas, and between North and South were also noted. Particular concern was expressed about slow rates of progress in Africa. One delegation drew attention to the number of girls who continue to be denied access to education, and welcomed the promotion by the Secretary-General of a 10-year, system-wide initiative on girls' education. He also welcomed the commitment by UNICEF to SIPs and SWAPs in education.

260. Delegations endorsed the analysis of UNICEF of the principal challenges to achievement of the goals regarding poverty, armed conflict, HIV/AIDS and discrimination. The spread of HIV/AIDS was described as particularly alarming, as was the continuing prevalence of extreme poverty, of which children are the primary victims. However, one delegation felt that the report had a disproportionate focus on broad contextual issues and the end-decade review, with inadequate analysis of the technical and micro-level determinants of success or failure of specific goals. The example of education was cited where, in other reports, UNICEF had described specific constraints to increasing enrolment and keeping girls in school. In this context, the need to promote universal access to education of good quality and to remove inequalities between girls and boys was once again stressed.

261. The hope was voiced that in the process of the end-decade review, UNICEF would spearhead a more in-depth analysis of causative factors, thereby enabling the identification of more effective strategies. With regard to maternal mortality, one delegation emphasized the vital importance of access to information on birth spacing and attended births in the overall context of strengthened health services. The need

to address, through preventive approaches, the vicious cycle that links maternal mortality, child mortality and adolescent health was also stressed, as was the need for coordination with the commitments on maternal mortality at the International Conference on Population and Development+5.

262. The majority of interventions stressed that deepening poverty and the need to reduce disparities should be fundamental considerations in the development of priority actions for the future. One delegation stated that growing disparities that impaired the realization of children's rights were the major challenge of the twenty-first century, making concerted action by the multilateral development system against poverty essential. Some delegations requested information on UNICEF support for the formulation of national poverty reduction strategies in HIPCs. It was observed that simply releasing money from debt servicing or improving basic social services was not enough; Governments needed to act effectively across a broad range of areas to break the intergenerational transmission of poverty.

263. Many delegations called for further mobilization of resources and for donors to reverse the decline in official development assistance (ODA). A proposal was made to amend subparagraph 4 of the draft recommendations, as contained in paragraph 78, to add an appeal to donor countries to fulfil their obligations as regards ODA. Although considerable progress had been made in the delivery of basic services, it was recommended that UNICEF work with Governments and donors to achieve the objectives of the 20/20 Initiative.

264. The economic and sexual exploitation of children were identified as areas needing further attention. In this regard, ILO Convention 182 (concerning the prohibition and immediate action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour), and the speedy adoption and ratification of the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child were considered crucial. While commending UNICEF work, emphasis was placed on the role of Governments in creating adequate conditions for the implementation of these instruments, including the need to review legislation and foster international cooperation. The sale and trafficking in children and the link with international adoptions were raised in light of a call to ratify the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.

265. One delegation noted that the problems posed by malaria were not sufficiently reflected in the report (in comparison with HIV/AIDS) and proposed an amendment to subparagraph 3 of the draft recommendation. It was also proposed that malnutrition be addressed more thoroughly.

266. A number of delegations insisted that the time had come to go beyond statistics and engage in a meaningful discussion on the quality of services. It was suggested that UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) continue to refine the accuracy and credibility of data, and that data collection be systematically undertaken on an annual basis. While laudable progress had been made in developing new global indicators, there was a lack of incentive or encouragement for countries to generate national or regional data on the basis of common indicators.

267. As regards unreached children, the special indicators and interventions of UNICEF were commended, and hope was expressed that these efforts would continue to have a meaningful impact and inform national and international efforts

under way. Although positive child participation initiatives had taken place in the last decade, there was still room for much improvement. In particular, the participation of adolescents was stressed, as was the need to involve children and adolescents as partners in activities in the areas of survival and development, education, and access to health care.

268. The HIV/AIDS pandemic was identified as the greatest threat and challenge — targeting the poor, women and children — and many delegations expressed the need for further concerted and coordinated efforts, with an increased focus on preventive approaches, such as health education and life skills, specifically for children and adolescents. One delegation recalled that the General Assembly was about to consider the proposal to hold a special session on HIV/AIDS. He expressed the hope that a new agenda would be put forward and called for UNICEF support of such an initiative. One delegation noted the need to further research the link between HIV/AIDS and breastfeeding in order to formulate informed strategies.

269. The leading role of Governments in driving national reviews was emphasized, with the reviews perceived as an opportunity to demonstrate commitment to creating a better environment for children, even in difficult economic times. The Board was informed that communication had been initiated with USAID missions worldwide to encourage their support and participation in the national review process. Many delegations asked that UNICEF provide broad support to Governments in their national reviews. It was suggested that in subparagraph 5 of the draft recommendation, a sentence be added requesting UNICEF to grant technical assistance to Governments of LDCs for development and to undertake national surveys to assess implementation of the World Summit goals. One delegation noted the usefulness of multiple indicator cluster surveys (MICS) and the database on indicators for women and children. Concerning regional reviews, some delegations shared their planned activities and information activities already under way. Several references were made to planned technical consultations, such as the consultation in Dakar on education and one emphasizing the important role of adolescents in the end-decade review process.

270. The secretariat thanked delegations for the valuable suggestions and noted that if negative trends were to be reversed or attenuated, it was indeed key to take into account poverty and debt, growing disparities, HIV/AIDS and marginalization. Countries where budget analyses had focused on the proportion of expenditure on children were mentioned as positive examples. Reference was made to a recent decision of the United Nations Development Group that agencies would collaborate with WHO, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the World Bank in the formulation and implementation of PRSPs in 15 countries on a pilot basis. The data collected by MICS, as well as the CCA, would be key in this process.

271. The secretariat noted that only one third of the report addressed progress in relation to goals because it was felt at this stage that it was key to look at the process put in place for the end-decade review. Planned meetings and consultations would certainly add to the analysis of the progress achieved and would be included in the following year's report. The regional reviews in Africa were not very visible in the report because, although many activities had taken place demonstrating the region's commitment to children, not much information was available at the time the report was written.

272. Concerning HIV/AIDS, mention was made of the new publication "Children Orphaned by AIDS", produced with UNAIDS, which sheds lights on this alarming phenomenon.

273. It was noted that the report did, in fact, address the issue of girls' education. The secretariat welcomed comments on the importance of the quality of education and reiterated the need for education to be gender sensitive and inclusive. Schools should be forums that promote a culture of peace where children learn to exercise their rights.

274. The secretariat reiterated that data were currently a key issue for the organization. Major concerns related to enhancing the capacity of countries to collect and report on data, and to standardize tools. Account was given on the MICS regional workshops that had been held, as well as others that are planned. Although MICS could not replace country-level data, they would fill gaps at national and subnational levels, thus allowing improved targeted interventions. (See annex II, decision 2000/9, for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board.)

E. Emerging issues for children in the twenty-first century

275. The Executive Director introduced the report on "Emerging issues for children in the twenty-first century" (A/AC.256/3-E/ICEF/2000/13). As a background paper for the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the General Assembly Special Session on Children to be held in September 2001, the report tried to capture the great opportunities and identify challenges. She hoped that the Preparatory Committee would help to stimulate and excite a world that was united and committed to breaking the cycle of poverty within a single generation. UNICEF, she said, viewed this as a process, and as such, sought to secure practical and visionary actions that could be monitored and measured. The report aimed to stimulate leadership to keep the promises made to children at the World Summit for Children, reflecting lessons learned at the country level and informed by consultations with technical specialists. The Executive Director expected the Board discussions to enrich deliberations at the Preparatory Committee. All of these efforts, she concluded, aimed at enhancing and enriching the process to move the development of future actions for children forward and she welcomed the Board's insights on the issues raised in the report.

276. Overall, delegations found the paper, which they described as comprehensive and well written, to be a very good background document for the deliberations of the Preparatory Committee. The analysis of progress since 1990, the identification of challenges for the future and key opportunities to improve the situation of children were said to capture the essence of issues that should be considered at the substantive session.

277. Most delegations indicated their support for the paper's conceptual framework. They found the life cycle approach to the rights and well-being of children and adolescents to be a useful way of approaching future action for children, and agreed that the three key outcomes for children captured the issues of fundamental importance. The shift from a sectoral analysis was noted by one speaker, who felt that it deserved further attention.

278. The vision of breaking the cycle of poverty in one generation was strongly endorsed by several speakers, with one delegation suggesting a further dimension — a commitment to breaking the cycle of violations of children's rights in one generation. The report resonated well with the Secretary-General's report on the Millennium, indicating a renewed convergence within the United Nations system.

279. UNICEF was encouraged to undertake further work to identify specific practical and measurable actions in the three key outcome areas for children. Many delegations concurred that one way of sharpening the analysis and defining concrete actions was to set up thematic working groups with experts in the various fields to discuss the different aspects of future actions for children, and to bring these recommendations to the Preparatory Committee. Attention to defining the roles of Governments, United Nations and Bretton Woods institutions, and civil society organizations would also be necessary.

280. A stronger analysis and a better link between chapter IV of the report, "Challenges for the future" and chapter V, "Future actions for children" was requested. One delegation suggested that it was essential to identify feasible and effective approaches to reach all children in order to use the limited resources in the most effective ways. Another speaker said it would be important to distinguish between the global agenda for children and specific priorities for UNICEF in the future. The Deputy Executive Director for Alliances and Resources agreed that the UNICEF priorities would have to be more selective than the larger agenda for children where UNICEF was only one player. He trusted, however, that the three key outcome areas for children mentioned in the report would be applicable not only for UNICEF, but for the broader agenda.

281. Mention was made of the need to pursue the unfinished agenda of the last decade and to achieve the goals of the World Summit for Children while addressing new challenges such as HIV/AIDS and child protection. One speaker suggested that the goals defined at the World Summit should be updated, while another stressed the importance of sustaining the achievements that have already been made. Without vigilance, he continued, there might be setbacks in the goals. It was agreed that leadership was an essential requirement if the rights of children were to be fully realized.

282. With regard to the unfinished agenda, the Deputy Executive Director noted that all partners were in agreement on keeping the promises made during the World Summit and, therefore, the relevance of the Summit goals remained undiminished. He hoped that the Preparatory Committee and the Special Session would reaffirm the need to tackle the unfinished agenda. However, he also noted that the actions needed to address emerging issues in order to be relevant to the modern world. Concerning the question about whether the goals were unmet because they were too ambitious or because of a lack of effort, the Deputy Executive Director said that he believed both to be contributing factors, but inadequate effort rather than impossible goals had more of an impact. He explained that the goals were very critically examined in 1990 and were considered feasible at the time. However, a number of factors had made them difficult to achieve. For example, the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic was not anticipated, nor was the number of conflicts and escalating violence worldwide. Moreover, while ODA was increasing at present, it was on a downward trend during most of the 1990s. In addition, using the 20/20 Initiative as one measure, many in developing countries also failed to live up to

expectations. At the same time, some of the goals were more daunting than originally imagined.

283. Several delegations stressed that children's rights should have a stronger presence in the deliberations and should underpin all future action, especially in light of the excellent record of UNICEF in applying a rights-based approach to programming. One delegation suggested better linkages between a rights-based perspective and the World Summit goals. Rights-based approaches, including monitoring of children's rights and indications of how to develop a child-friendly society, should be treated in more depth.

284. Many delegations felt that globalization was not sufficiently discussed in the paper, with one speaker stating that the paper focused on only the negative aspects of globalization. There were, he said, positive aspects to be considered; for example, globalization had made it possible for young people to build important cross-border alliances. Others would like to have seen a discussion of the challenge of globalization, how it has affected countries' abilities to achieve the World Summit goals, and how it links to children's rights and well-being. It was felt that the impact of new technologies should have also been addressed in the paper.

285. Numerous interventions touched on the central importance of poverty and poverty eradication in all future actions for children. More resources were needed, and the resources available had to be better utilized. The importance of ODA support was also mentioned. One delegation noted that there had been a recent upturn in ODA ("5 per cent in real terms") which, though still below the United Nations target, perhaps indicated a positive trend. Another speaker regretted that debt cancellation was not discussed in the paper. The importance of focusing aid flows on the neediest countries and the neediest people, as well as on countries in transition and those suffering economic crises, was also noted.

286. The new emphasis on participation was welcomed by many speakers, but they felt that more information on how to strengthen the participation of children at all stages of their life cycle was necessary. The issue of exclusion and equal rights for all marginalized groups who suffered discrimination was stressed. One delegation emphasized the importance of increasing children's capacity by improving access to education, especially for girls. Education, with an emphasis on quality and achievement, it was noted, was the key to future human development.

287. Several delegations recommended further elaboration on the challenge of HIV/AIDS. It was suggested that there should be a mechanism for ensuring more sharing of information on the success stories mentioned in the paper and that it was important to avoid duplication of work among the various agencies. Access to health services and affordable treatment were mentioned as future priorities.

288. Many delegations emphasized the need for child protection issues to receive greater attention in the future. Special efforts would be needed to protect the rights of child labourers; children affected by drug abuse; children, especially girls, affected by sexual and emotional abuse; children with disabilities; child refugees; and child prisoners. However, prevention was stressed as the overall objective.

289. Some delegations referred to the need for future priority actions for children to address the situation of children in industrialized countries, where children were affected by a wide range of social and psychological problems such as isolation,

depression and poverty. Other issues affecting children in industrialized countries included child care and the impact of working parents.

290. One delegation referred to a major study his Government undertook to examine the multiple aspects of poverty on children's rights and well-being in both industrialized and developing countries, and offered to make the findings of this study available to the Preparatory Committee.

291. Several delegations supported the campaign for universal birth registration as addressing one of the most fundamental rights of children to a name and a nationality.

292. In conclusion, the Deputy Executive Director said that he was encouraged by the number of interventions and the stimulating feedback. He acknowledged that more work was needed on specific actions, and expressed appreciation for the suggestions on areas requiring further elaboration which he assured delegations the secretariat would review carefully. He explained that while children needed health, education, sanitation, etc., they also needed peace and, hence, the emphasis in the report on conflict as well as on poverty, discrimination and HIV/AIDS. The Deputy Executive Director stressed that the discussion on emerging issues for children was not just between Member States and UNICEF, but rather it was largely a discussion among Member States and broader partners, and the role of UNICEF was to sharpen the focus.

293. The Executive Director added that if the current discussion was any reflection of the potential, UNICEF was very encouraged by the outcome of deliberations in this issue. The President of the Board noted that a summary of the discussion of this item would be presented to the Preparatory Committee at its meeting to be held from 30 May to 2 June 2000.

F. United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children in 2001

Oral report

294. The Executive Director gave a brief oral report on the current plans and status of preparations for the Special Session on Children in 2001, and referred to the report on "Emerging issues for children in the twenty-first century" (E/ICEF/2000/13). She explained that the report was submitted to the Board for information.

Activities and budget for UNICEF secretariat support to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children in 2001 and additional activities

295. The Deputy Executive Director, Internal Management, Administration and Finance, introduced the report, as contained in E/ICEF/2000/AB/L.2, and reminded delegations of the establishment of a United Nations Trust Fund to assist LDCs to participate in the Preparatory Committee sessions. She stated that the preparatory process would be led by the Deputy Executive Director, Alliances and Resources.

296. A number of delegations expressed their support for the process and requested additional information and clarification on certain areas in the budget and activities planned. Many indicated that their interventions would be brief, in light of their

intention to participate actively in the substantive session of the Preparatory Committee the following week.

297. Two delegations pledged funding to contribute to the budget of the substantive secretariat. Another delegation suggested that the Executive Director provide an interim and final report on the use of the funds for preparations for the Special Session, to be presented as part of her annual reports in 2001 and 2002, respectively, and further requested that the draft resolution contained in paragraph 28 of document E/ICEF/2000/AB/L.2 be amended to reflect this.

298. One delegation indicated that it would be helpful if national reports on specific issues be produced during the preparatory process, and that technical experts be engaged for that purpose. He stated that his delegation would like their contribution to support the involvement of such experts in the process. The delegation would also appreciate receiving a timetable of the various events envisaged, with an indication of how the events would feed into the preparatory process.

299. One delegation requested information on the current status of the Trust Fund for participation of LDCs in the preparatory process of the Special Session. Another delegation asked whether the technical consultations planned would focus on the three outcomes identified in the paper on emerging issues. Information was requested on whether there was a concrete proposal for the coverage of costs of participation by children and civil society organizations, and if UNICEF had specific plans for children's events. Queries were also made regarding the nature of the public information activities envisaged and the distribution of work between UNICEF and the United Nations Secretariat in terms of staff costs. One delegation requested confirmation that a special event would precede the Special Session, and wondered if the Executive Board would be involved in the process.

300. The Deputy Executive Director, Internal Management, Administration and Finance, responded that no funds had been received for the Trust Fund to date. Regarding staff costs, she stated that UNICEF would be the substantive secretariat for the Special Session and that, as this was a unique situation, all staff costs would be borne by UNICEF. She noted that the organizational session for the Special Session had decided on the participation of NGOs, and 2,900 groups had already been invited.

301. She observed that the involvement of the Executive Board in the process would be decided by the Preparatory Committee, and stressed that Member States would be involved in their respective country-level preparatory activities. She thanked the delegations that had made pledges, and noted that the initial budget of $2 million approved by the Board at its second regular session of 1999 (E/ICEF/1999/7/Rev.1, decision 1999/12) had been provided by National Committees for UNICEF.

302. The Executive Director noted that UNICEF would be as creative as possible in the development of a communication strategy, and was looking at a number of possibilities and opportunities for children's participation and other events. (See annex II, decision 2000/6, for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board.)

G. Proposed modifications to the budget process

303. The Executive Board had before it two reports: "Proposed modifications to the budget process" (E/ICEF/2000/AB/L.3); and the report on the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the MYFF report submitted to the Board at its first regular session of 2000 (E/ICEF/2000/5) and on the above-mentioned budget document(E/ICEF/2000/AB/L.4).

304. The Comptroller summarized the proposed modifications to the UNICEF budget process: (a) the timing of the submission of the support budget to the Executive Board; and (b) flexibility in managing the post pyramid. They were, she said, a logical progression from the MYFF. With respect to timing, the current timetable required UNICEF to submit the biennial budget proposal to the second regular session of the Executive Board in September of every other year. The deadline did not allow sufficient time for the articulation of the MTSP and also meant that the country programme management plan and support budget would have to be completed before the country programme was finalized. She explained how the current practice ran counter to the principle of the "plan drives the budget". The first modification proposed instead submission to the Executive Board at its first regular session, i.e. January 2002 for the 2002-2003 biennial support budget. This modification had been supported by the Advisory Committee, with the stipulation that the secretariat seek a better solution for future submissions.

305. The second modification proposed that, within the approved support budget appropriations, the Executive Director be given increased flexibility in the management of support posts in the interim period between meetings of the Executive Board. The Comptroller summarized the recommendations of the Advisory Committee as contained in E/ICEF/2000/AB/L.4, which suggested that the authority should have two limitations: (a) D-1 and D-2 posts should be approved by the Executive Board; and (b) the financial resources budgeted for staff costs should not exceed the amount authorized by the Executive Board. She explained how the second restriction would add a constraint that did not exist currently in the support budget, where the Executive Board approved a gross appropriation in two categories — Programme Support and Management and Administration of the organization.

306. Several speakers expressed agreement with the proposal for modifying the sequencing of planning and budgeting in UNICEF in the context of the already endorsed MYFF. Some speakers recommended that UNICEF continue consultations with the Committee on Conferences to find alternative solutions before the adoption of the next biennial budget. They expressed concern about moving the approval decision into the biennium to which it referred, especially if there were difficulties with the budget proposal. They urged the secretariat to find ways between now and 2001 to approve the budget prior to the biennium. Some speakers also requested UNICEF to identify where less reporting might be possible.

307. Delegations found the proposal for increased flexibility in post management for posts below the D-1 level within the amount allocated to be justified. One speaker requested UNICEF to mention the necessity for post-level changes in future budget documents. A number of delegations said that they would remain vigilant with the support budget ratios and would hold UNICEF accountable on costs. The speakers concurred that officials needed margins within which to manoeuvre as long

as UNICEF could respect the overall amount approved in the appropriation lines of the harmonized support budget format. Overall, the speakers agreed that increased flexibility on the grading and number of posts below the P-5 level would not make implementation of programmes more difficult, but would increase the ability of UNICEF to manage its resources more effectively in response to priorities.

308. The Deputy Executive Director for Internal Management, Administration and Finance summarized the main discussion points and explained how the budget harmonization format did not authorize down to the budget lines. UNICEF maintained good internal budget management procedures for controlling the individual budget lines within the two Board-approved budget appropriations. In addition, she mentioned that the ratio of support to programme budgets would not change as a result of the proposed modifications, and confirmed that even if the Board were to approve the budget in January after the start of the biennium, it would still have the possibility of changing the budget. She reiterated that as has been usual practice, the secretariat would undertake consultations with interested Board members during the period leading up to the finalization of the budget proposal. She said that the secretariat would look at the best possible date for the approval of the budget after consultations with the Committee on Conferences. (See annex II, decision 2000/7, for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board.)

H. Reports on field visits of Executive Board members

309. The reports on the field visits of Executive Board members to Ghana and Namibia from 4 to 17 March 2000 (E/ICEF/2000/CRP.5) and to China from 19 March to 1 April 2000 (E/ICEF/2000/CRP.6) were introduced by representatives of the two teams.

Field visit to Ghana and Namibia

310. The team member from France presented the report on the field visit to Ghana and Namibia. The visit, he said, took stock of UNICEF programme choices, and he noted that all the team members had a very favourable impression of the work of the organization in the two countries. He stated that the Governments of Ghana and Namibia were key in the realization of programme objectives. During the field visit, team members examined four areas: national plans of action; decentralization; the integral approach to development; and the role of community participation. He noted that both programmes were based on flexibility and responded to local situations. Field visit participants found the UNICEF approach pertinent and realistic, but also fragile, in that country programme success depended on continued monitoring and follow-up by local authorities and UNICEF. He thanked the local authorities in both countries for their hospitality, competence and assistance, which made the visit a success.

311. The delegation of one of the host Governments stressed the importance of UNICEF work in regions that had experienced conflict. His Government was committed to dealing transparently with partners, and he reiterated the importance of children's rights applying to all children. He commended UNICEF for targeting the disadvantaged, and asked Board members to intensify monitoring and evaluation systems and to use data obtained to support interventions identified by countries.

Field visit to China

312. The report was introduced by the team member from Bolivia, who described the visit as "successful" and expressed the team's appreciation to the Chinese authorities as well as to the UNICEF Beijing office for the excellent work being undertaken in implementing the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and in supporting children and women in China. The team had been struck not only by the immensity of the country, but also by the great diversity of its people. He said that, to a great extent, the goals set by China during implementation of the country programme had been attained. In view of the scarcity of resources available to UNICEF, especially in view of the enormity of the problems faced in a society with such a large population, it was felt that the programme outcomes or results were highly satisfactory. He described some problems, including those related to equity among regions, gender and the quality of results, and how they were being addressed by the Government. He also mentioned the emerging challenges of child trafficking and the HIV/AIDS pandemic facing the country and the Government's response. Collaboration with other agencies, including in the context of the CCA/UNDAF, was producing very positive results. In closing, he expressed appreciation to the UNICEF staff in China and to the Secretary of the Board, who had accompanied the team and provided very valuable assistance.

313. The country delegation noted that his Government was pleased to have an opportunity to receive members of the UNICEF Executive Board and exchange views with colleagues from various countries. He echoed the presenter's description of the various levels of economic and social development between eastern and western areas of the country and between rural and urban areas. He said that the Government was developing a national strategy for the development of the western area. He stressed that the Government was aware of the real difficulties facing girls and women and was taking active measures to face the challenges and resolve the problems. He thanked the team for its recommendations, which would be incorporated into the plan being developed for the next programme of cooperation with UNICEF.

General comments

314. A discussion ensued among delegations on the overall issue of field visits. One delegation suggested that, because of the importance of the UNDAF and CCA processes, a joint field visit could be arranged with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNDP. He further suggested that field visits be incorporated into the programme planning process, and that visits be arranged in countries submitting country notes the following year. Another delegation, however, stated that the Board should not put limits on the choice of countries.

315. The Secretary of the Executive Board stated that it was important that the framework of field visits not be too restrictive. Delegations should visit countries where interesting projects were being implemented, even if a country programme was not being prepared. He noted that the Board was already following the spirit of the suggestion because in January both Ghana and China would have a country note. As regards the joint visits, he warned that the focus on UNICEF work and on children could be lost. He requested that Board members from programme countries alert the Office of the Secretary of the Executive Board when they next planned to

return to their countries so that visits could be arranged for them to see UNICEF work first hand.

316. One delegation suggested that rather than having joint field visits, there could be a discussion at the next joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNICEF and UNDP/UNFPA on field visits of the various organizations so that experiences could be shared. He recommended that UNICEF take the initiative at the joint meeting in January 2001. Another delegation stated that UNICEF Board members should protect the clear focus on UNICEF work in the field and that there really was no overlap as regards programming of the various organizations.

317. The President stated that because the reports before the Board had such rich input, the conclusions should be brought into the programming process. He suggested that the Bureau take up this issue. As a first step, he recommended that the Board take note of the two reports. Another delegation suggested that the reports of field visits be available in the six official languages of the United Nations. (See annex II, decision 2000/8, for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board.)

I. Statement by the Chairperson of the UNICEF Global Staff Association

318. As is usual practice at the annual session of the Executive Board, the President of the Board invited the Chairperson of the UNICEF Global Staff Association (GSA) to address the meeting. She paid tribute to a number of staff who had lost their lives in the previous year, some in the line of duty, while carrying out the organization's work. She stated that there had been improvements in communication and collaboration between the UNICEF administration and the GSA. She regretted that staff morale remained a problem, but looked forward to additional partnership with administration to further gains made since 1997.

319. One delegation noted the value of human resources management and saw staff morale as a critical part of the work of UNICEF. She requested periodic reports from the secretariat to see that progress continued to be made. The Executive Director agreed that staff morale was a key issue, and stated that at the first regular session of 2001 she would provide an oral report on what has been accomplished and what areas still needed improvement. She would also address this topic in her annual report in 2001.

J. UNICEF Maurice Pate Award for 2000

320. The Executive Director introduced the report, as contained in document E/ICEF/2000/10. The report contained her recommendation, endorsed by the Bureau, that the Maurice Pate Award for 2000 be conferred upon the Jamaican NGO Rural Family Support Organization (RuFamSo) in recognition of its work in advancing the survival, protection and development of young children and adolescents in Jamaica through a holistic and integrated programme of family support.

321. The Award was accepted by Mrs. Joyce Jarrett, Executive Director of RuFamSo. She expressed her honour at being acknowledged by the world's most

recognized organization championing child rights. She thanked UNICEF for its support and paid tribute to the Bernard van Leer Foundation, which was the first to support her organization. She stated that the partnership of the Foundation, UNICEF and RuFamSo was an example of excellent inter-organizational collaboration — a testimony to the fact that unity is strength.

322. A number of delegations offered their congratulations to RuFamSo. One delegation stated that it was important for local NGOs to have international support and recognition. Another stated that it was significant that this type of organization won the Award because it worked effectively for civil society as a whole. It was noted that the Award recognized the importance of small grass-roots organizations. Another delegation stated that it would work with other Executive Board members to make certain that the Award reached its potential as a motivational tool on behalf of the world's children. (See annex II, decision 2000/10, for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board.)

K. Other matters

323. The Executive Director reported to the Board that the General Assembly had just adopted the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child: on children in armed conflict, and on their protection from sale, prostitution and pornography. She stated that this was an important development, and it was now up to individual Governments to ratify the protocols. If they had not done so by the Millennium Assembly in September, this would be another opportunity for ratification.

324. The President of the Board stated that adoption of the Optional Protocols was a major decision on the part of the General Assembly and that it was fortunate that it coincided with the annual session of the UNICEF Executive Board. He introduced a draft decision, which was later adopted by the Board (see annex II, decision 2000/11, for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board).

325. The Deputy Executive Director, Programme and Strategic Planning, gave a presentation on the World Education Forum, which was held in Dakar, Senegal, on 26-28 April 2000. He noted that representation of Governments, United Nations agencies and bilateral agencies had been at a very high level. He stated that UNICEF had been involved well in advance of the meeting, having conducted numerous studies on education, participated in regional conferences and round-table meetings, and contributed to three global thematic studies.

326. There was a convergence between the objectives of the Dakar meeting and the areas discussed in the report before the Board on emerging issues for children in the twenty-first century. He reported that UNICEF would give priority to: access for excluded and marginalized children; keeping children in school; girls' education; and the impact of HIV/AIDS on education. He noted that in Dakar, the Secretary-General confirmed the important role UNICEF had to play in training and leadership. He described the importance UNICEF attached to education during conflicts and instability, an area where the organization had acquired competence over the years.

327. He described the clear will expressed in Dakar regarding follow-up at the country level. UNICEF would take a leadership role in helping countries to draw up

plans of action by the end of 2002. The organization would work to improve partnerships among development agencies, bilateral organizations, NGOs and civil society. He stressed that UNICEF would look to UNESCO for guidance, and emphasized the particular importance of that partnership.

328. One delegation stated that it was very relevant for the Board to have this account of the proceedings in Dakar and welcomed the information on how UNICEF would follow up concretely. He agreed fully with the areas of priority as described by the Deputy Executive Director.

329. The Representative of UNESCO in New York congratulated UNICEF on its work since the World Conference on Education for All in 1990. He stated that his organization appreciated the fine work of UNICEF, and welcomed the fruitful and continuing cooperation between the two organizations.

330. The Director, Division of EPP, made a statement on the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (General Assembly resolution 53/25 of 10 November 1998), which, she stated, was of great relevance to the work of UNICEF. It linked many important events and conferences and would be of particular significance to the Special Session on Children. Justice and peace could be a reality, but wider partnerships must be built. The Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict were allies in the work of UNICEF. The Convention on the Rights of the Child was a key framework for the work of the organization in this area, in particular two major provisions: the principle of the best interest of the child; and the emphasis on education. UNICEF work had focused on two areas: global advocacy; and participation in important international events.

331. She emphasized the importance of the two Optional Protocols adopted by the General Assembly, noting that this had been achieved with the participation of children and through the efforts of UNICEF. The Peace and Security Agenda submitted to the Security Council was especially relevant as regards the prevention of the negative effects of war and the promotion of social reintegration. She reiterated that the core of UNICEF work was at the programme level. She concluded by describing the role of UNICEF in promoting children as agents of peace, for example, the Children's Movement for Peace in Colombia, which has twice been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. She was gratified that the Movement would be represented on a panel at the substantive session of the Preparatory Committee of the Special Session on Children the following week.

332. The representative of UNESCO noted that education, particularly in early childhood, was the most important element in building a culture of peace. He stated that his organization would cooperate with UNICEF on the report the Secretary-General was preparing to submit to the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, which would outline implementation of resolution 53/25 at all levels. He hoped Member States would respond positively and take the necessary steps so that peace and non-violence could be taught at all levels of society.

333. The President informed the Board that a President's summary of the discussion on emerging issues had been prepared and would be submitted the following week to the substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session.

L. Closing of the session

334. The Executive Director stated that she needn't say good-bye to delegations, as she would be working with them the following week at the substantive session of the Preparatory Committee. She said that the Executive Board session had been very useful in a number of ways. Delegations had provided important guidance on the report of the Executive Director and had made very constructive comments on the MTRs and major evaluations of country programmes. They had also been active and enthusiastic in providing advice on the report on emerging issues for children in the twenty-first century. She thanked the delegations of Sweden and the United Kingdom for their announcements of generous contributions to the budget for UNICEF as the substantive secretariat of the Special Session on Children.

335. She further thanked UNICEF colleagues in the United Nations system, in particular UNESCO and UNAIDS, for their useful comments. She expressed appreciation for the insights of the representatives who had come from capitals and helped to inform discussions by reporting on what was happening "on the ground". She stated that the annual meeting was also a time when National Committees for UNICEF participated in greater numbers. These Committees were key partners in resource mobilization, but also in efforts leading up to the Special Session. She thanked the President of the Board, as well as members of the secretariat, interpreters and Board members, for their contributions.

336. The President of the Executive Board agreed with the Executive Director that the session had been a very useful one. He expressed appreciation for the focused nature of delegations' statements. The Board had adopted important decisions, some of them unusual. There was a good discussion on field visits, out of which came innovative suggestions and new ideas. He expressed the hope that he would see delegations the following week at the substantive session of the Preparatory Committee. The President thanked the Executive Director and her team, and the Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the Board and their team, for their support and assistance.

Part Three
Second regular session of 2000

Held at United Nations Headquarters from 18 to 20 September 2000

I. Organization of the session

A. Opening of the session

337. The composition of the Bureau of the Executive Board was as follows:

President:
H.E. Mr. Anwarul Karim Chowdhury (Bangladesh)

Vice-Presidents:
Ms. Lala Ibrahimova (Azerbaijan)
H.E. Mr. Alberto Salamanca (Bolivia)
Mr. Luc Schillings (Netherlands)
H.E. Mr. Mubarak Hussein Rahmtalla (Sudan)

The President of the Executive Board focused his opening remarks on the substantive items to be addressed at the session, in particular the country programme recommendations (CPRs) to be approved by the Board. In addition, he noted that the Board would review initiatives in the health sector, including the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) and UNICEF immunization activities with its partners. Delegations would be able to see how the synergy of those initiatives advanced UNICEF programmes in the field. He also made special mention of the upcoming screening of the Cable News Network documentary on the Colombian Children's Movement for Peace entitled "Soldiers of Peace: A Children's Crusade". The Executive Board was invited to participate in the event.

338. In her opening statement, the Executive Director stressed that the session was being held at a moment of immense hope and expectations, especially in view of the success of the Millennium Summit, which had re-energized and refocused the work of the United Nations system to meet the challenges ahead. She also reported on the Millennium Forum on Girls' Education organized by UNICEF — with Nane Annan as the Honorary Chairperson — and attended by more than 50 First Spouses, who affirmed their belief that education for girls was the best single investment any society could make. The promises made at the Summit had resonated at the Winnipeg Conference on War-Affected Children. All three events would inform and enrich the outcome of the Special Session for Children in 2001.

339. She emphasized that now was the time to accelerate the realization of children's rights and ensure every child a healthy start in life, a quality basic education, and a safe and productive adolescence; to put children at the heart of every agenda and ensure that their voices were heard; and to maximize the resources devoted to the cause of children, while building a network of global alliances to bring about action and change. She also noted the need to meet the urgent funding appeal for the operations of the secretariat for the Special Session.

340. She said that UNICEF successes for children over the last 54 years had come about because the organization had amassed an unparalleled record of mobilizing political will to put the rights and needs of children first. Now UNICEF was poised to move forward with a new global vision for children — a vision that had grown out of the progress seen since 1990 as it addressed new and more complex challenges. In closing, she said: "Our collective task is clear, and it applies to every aspect of our work for children. All of us must work together to do more, to do it

better, and to do it now". (See E/ICEF/2000/CRP.10 for the full text of her statement.)

341. In connection with the Executive Director's statement, the President requested that the secretariat prepare and share the following with the Board: a compilation of all the statements made at the Millennium Summit and the Security Council Summit in favour children; a list of the countries that had signed and ratified the two Optional Protocols (on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography) during the Millennium Summit; and the outcome of the Winnipeg Conference.

B. Adoption of the agenda

342. The agenda, timetable and organization of work of the session, contained in document E/ICEF/2000/14, was adopted as amended orally. The agenda contained the following items:

Item 1: Opening of the session: statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Executive Director

Item 2: Adoption of the provisional agenda and timetable and organization of work

Item 3: Proposals for UNICEF programme cooperation:

(a) CPRs

(b) Recommendations for additional regular resources for approved country programmes

Item 4: Health matters:

(a) Overview of recent initiatives and partnerships in immunization, including GAVI: oral report

(b) Recommendations for the extension of cooperation with Rotary International for polio eradication and for the extension of the Vaccine Independence Initiative

Item 5: Decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council: oral report

Item 6: Financial medium-term plan (MTP) for the period 2000-2003

Item 7: Implementation of the modified system for allocation of regular resources for programmes: oral report

Item 8: Private Sector Division (PSD) financial report and statements for the year ended 31 December 1999

Item 9: Report on internal audit activities

Item 10: Programme of work for 2001

Item 11: Other matters

Item 12: Closing of the session: remarks by the Executive Director and the President of the Executive Director

343. In accordance with rule 50.2 and the annex of the Rules of Procedure, the Secretary of the Executive Board announced that 55 observer delegations had submitted credentials for the session. In addition, five United Nations bodies, one specialized agency, one intergovernmental organization, two non-governmental organizations (NGOs), four National Committees for UNICEF, and the International Committee of the Red Cross and Palestine had submitted credentials.

II. Deliberations of the Executive Board

A. Proposals for UNICEF programme cooperation

344. The Director, Programme Division, presented an overview of the 35 CPRs before the Executive Board for approval, totalling $424.6 million in regular resources and $848.6 million in other resources. He stated that the large number of short-duration CPRs, 18 in total, was due to the harmonization of United Nations programme cycles. As most cycles had now been harmonized, this would be the last year in which such a large number of short-duration programmes would be presented to the Board. He further noted that as part of the refinements introduced under the multi-year funding framework (MYFF), there had been a reduction in the duplication of sections which had already been included in the country notes, and the CPR was now considered an addendum to the country note, allowing more scope to focus on the proposed programme of cooperation.

345. Current CPRs were based on planning processes led by government partners, and placed an emphasis on the rights-based approach and the stronger and more explicit participation in sector-wide programmes. He highlighted the strengthened cooperation among United Nations agencies as a result of the Common Country Assessment (CCA) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) in such priority areas as HIV/AIDS, gender equality, reproductive health, education and child labour. He further noted examples of policy-related advocacy contained in CPRs and, as a result of the MYFF, the use of key indicators to measure progress towards the expected results of UNICEF cooperation.

346. The Director also noted the request for $41.7 million in additional regular resources for 21 countries to meet the required regular resources planning levels for the final phases of the programme cycles approved by the Board in earlier years, as contained in document E/ICEF/2000/P/L.46.

347. A number of delegations thanked the Director for his comprehensive overview and referred specifically to the impact of United Nations reforms at the country level. One delegation stressed the need for harmonization among United Nations funds and programmes in the country programme preparation process without weakening the process used by UNICEF. Another delegation stressed the need for a strong UNDAF from which joint programmes of United Nations agencies could be developed. One delegation suggested that the joint session of the Executive Board would provide a good opportunity to reflect on the harmonization of country programme procedures. In response, the Director said that UNICEF was working closely with the other members of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) on country programme harmonization.

Eastern and Southern Africa

348. The Executive Board had before it for consideration three full-length, five-year (2001-2005) CPRs, for Rwanda, Swaziland and Uganda (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.1/Add.1-E/ICEF/2000/P/L.3/Add.1, respectively); and five short-duration country programmes, for Burundi, Eritrea, Madagascar, Mauritius and Somalia (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.28-E/ICEF/2000/P/L.32, respectively). In his introduction, the Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa spoke about recent developments in the region that included both hope and despair, noting in particular the ever-increasing HIV/AIDS pandemic that continued to push most of the countries deeper and deeper into a new type of social chaos. UNICEF, as part of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), continued to give top priority to the prevention of HIV and to provide support and care to children affected by HIV/AIDS. This priority had been clearly reflected in almost all of the CPRs.

349. He also addressed another important similarity among the CPRs — the adoption of a rights-based approach to programming, with a focus on community capacity development. This approach, he said, recognized children as subjects with rights and valid claims, rather than as objects of care, benevolence and charity. Community cohesion in the region remained strong enough to mobilize people against the threats of poverty, armed conflict and HIV/AIDS, and the United Nations system, including UNICEF, had an obligation to facilitate such a mobilization.

350. Regarding the *Burundi* country programme, the country delegation paid tribute to the work of UNICEF, especially in the areas of health, HIV/AIDS, water and environment, which were also government priorities. He said that national authorities should be closely involved in the peace education movement in order to consolidate programme impact. He invited UNICEF to contribute to the humanitarian assistance to be delivered to the returnees when the Arusha Peace Agreement signed on 28 August 2000 was implemented.

351. One delegation expressed satisfaction with the sector-wide approach (SWAP) for education described in the *Eritrea* country programme. However, the same delegation voiced concern about whether it was possible to reach the high other resources target and whether a lack of funding would change the fundamental nature of the programme. The speaker also expressed concern about the large number of programme components, each with a small amount of resources. A question was raised about whether national capacity-building was an area of UNICEF comparative advantage. The Regional Director responded that this fragmentation was the result of trying to address the needs of the whole child through a sectoral approach. The Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) initiative and other more integrated approaches could be used to achieve convergence of interventions. He added that capacity-building at the local level was important in countries with decentralized Governments because that was where real integration took place. Another delegation agreed with the continued focus on meeting basic needs. UNICEF was encouraged to continue to focus on HIV/AIDS in view of its low incidence in the country and, in this connection, to consider examining the impact of population movements. The Regional Director assured delegations that UNICEF was working in this area through UNAIDS. The delegation also commented that the level of consultation between UNICEF and the Canadian International Development Agency needed to be improved.

352. With regard to the *Madagascar* country programme, one delegation remarked that the field staff of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) had commented that collaboration in the country was not as strong as it could be. UNICEF was encouraged to play a stronger leadership role in HIV/AIDS prevention and routine immunization activities, which would be accomplished through the hiring of key technical staff in these areas. However, the speaker commended UNICEF for its efforts in the collection, use and dissemination of data in the areas of health and HIV/AIDS. The Regional Director said that UNICEF was working through UNAIDS to address HIV/AIDS in the country. Another delegation expressed support for the community development strategy, which was already showing results, especially in health. UNICEF was urged to give special attention to preventing violence and sexual exploitation of children in future programmes.

353. One speaker commented that the *Somalia* country programme highlighted the level of insecurity, which had a direct impact on programme implementation, and expressed his Government's support of the three-year programme cycle. The indivisibility of women's and children's rights as shown in the document was thought to be a model for other CPRs. In response to a query on the implementation of programmes in an insecure environment, the Regional Director reported that large areas of Somalia were secure and that it was possible to work with community leaders.

West and Central Africa

354. The Executive Board had before it three full-length CPRs, for Burkina Faso, Chad and Ghana (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.4/Add.1-E/ICEF/2000/P/L.6/Add.1, respectively); and two short-duration country programmes, for Congo and Liberia (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.33 and E/ICEF/2000/P/L.34, respectively). In her introduction, the Regional Director focused on education in general, and on girls' education in particular. She stated that education was now considered to be the driving force for sustainable human development and poverty reduction in the region. She added that education was also a major strategy for child protection and the prevention of child labour and exploitation.

355. The overview of the situation of education demonstrated that high gender disparity was prevalent in Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Guinea and Niger. The Regional Director noted that some progress had been made in the areas of quality education, accessibility and social mobilization for girls' education. Donor support had increased, but needed to grow even further in view of the challenging situation prevailing in the region.

356. Many delegations found the focus on girls' education in the region's CPRs very appropriate. Regarding *Burkina Faso*, one delegation expressed appreciation for UNICEF work within the frameworks of the CCA and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, as well as SWAPs in education and health. He stated that the satellite school projects were a success that should be implemented throughout the country and beyond its borders. With regard to the table in the document on estimates for the previous programme versus actual resources spent, he indicated that there was a gap and that estimates should be more realistic in the future.

357. Referring to the *Ghana* CPR, one delegation announced that his country would increase its financial support to the education programme in view of the encouraging results already achieved during the previous country programme. The country

delegation described the overall development strategies that would influence implementation of the CPR, and expressed appreciation for the support received from all partners. The Regional Director commented on the commendable efforts of the National Commission for Children in Ghana.

358. One delegation stated that UNICEF work in *Congo* was commendable given the insecure situation. He added that among the strategies implemented by UNICEF, two were particularly relevant — community participation and partnership development. Two delegations highlighted the linkage between the World Education Forum in Dakar and the priority given to girls' education in the region's CPRs, including Burkina Faso, *Chad* and *Liberia*.

359. In her response, the Regional Director thanked delegations for their support. She stated that UNICEF would work with Governments in the area of the displacement of families, and would continue to support children in difficult circumstances.

Americas and the Caribbean

360. The Regional Director for the Americas and Caribbean presented two full-length CPRs, for Guyana and Peru (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.7/Add.1 and E/ICEF/2000/P/L.8/Add.1, respectively); two short-duration programmes, for Brazil (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.35) and Honduras (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.37); and a request for additional other resources without a request for regular resources for Colombia (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.36). He highlighted the work being done in the region through UNICEF country offices, national partners and civil society to develop a strategic vision for the realization of the rights of children, adolescents and women in the coming decade.

361. The CPRs for Guyana and Peru focused on ensuring the rights of marginalized and excluded groups, while the programmes for Brazil and Honduras aimed to allow time to develop more long-term strategies, taking into account, inter alia, the UNDAF process under way in both countries and the harmonization of cycles with United Nations partners. The programme proposal for Colombia was to accommodate anticipated funding for programmes aimed at assisting children and their families displaced by the effects of armed conflict and the struggle against coca production. He also mentioned the forthcoming Vth Ministerial Meeting on Social Policy in the Americas, where progress towards World Summit goals would be reviewed and new goals for the future would be set. In addition, he noted that the theme of the Xth Ibero-American Summit in Panama in November would be children and adolescents.

362. One delegation commented that at the first regular session of the Board in January, her delegation had noted the lack of detail on anticipated results and programme approaches in the *Peru* country note, and that in the CPR it was still difficult to track what this very broad programme was expected to achieve. She felt that targets were too general, and urged that certain proposed activities be evaluated prior to expansion, specifically the local health administration committees. She encouraged UNICEF to work with the Government to promote the use of skilled, medically trained birth attendants as well as traditional birth attendants (TBAs) for deliveries. The delegation also sought clarification on the status of the "culturally appropriate civil registry system" for automatic birth registration. In response, the Regional Director indicated that UNICEF worked with both TBAs and the formal

health structure to achieve maternal and child health (MCH) goals. On the question of birth registration, he indicated that a system had been adopted, but effective implementation remained a major challenge, with 350,000 children in Peru still unregistered. He took note of other issues raised and suggested bilateral discussions to clarify important concerns.

363. Highlighting its full support for the peace process in *Colombia*, one delegation expressed interest in working with UNICEF to deal with the problem of the internally displaced and those affected by violence. He noted, however, that UNICEF support should not be linked to the *Plan Colombia*, which was primarily a military operation. The delegation said that it was reassuring to hear that the country had made good progress on goals for children, but at the same time felt that the serious effects on children, including those caught up directly in armed conflict, were not clear in the document. He also questioned what was being done to prevent communities, and especially children, from becoming involved in violence and conflict. In his response, the Regional Director emphasized that the country programme was not linked with the military elements of the *Plan Colombia*. He mentioned that one major impact of the conflict on children was that there were some 900,000 children among the displaced population. He added that the Government of Colombia had introduced legislation to ensure that there were no children in the country's armed forces. Efforts were also under way to prevent the recruitment of children by armed groups and paramilitary forces.

364. The country delegation stated that UNICEF had a solid foundation in civil society in the Putamayo region and with the Catholic Church, which had become an effective partner. He noted that the proposal for Colombia had a very important short-term emergency support element for displaced populations, but also medium- and long-term objectives to promote alternative development strategies in the affected regions. He emphasized that while the *Plan Colombia* strategy had a military component, it was based on the need for reconstruction of the social fabric of the affected areas. There was little presence of the State in these areas, and the protection of vulnerable groups and actions in favour of the poor were the main strategies. He expressed the hope that the international community would support the efforts of his Government.

365. Noting the problem of security of staff in areas of conflict, the same delegation expressed support for the work being done to ensure that staff were not exposed to undue risk. He encouraged UNICEF to work closely with the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) in the Putamayo region. The Regional Director emphasized that there had been no major problems with regard to staff security in the programme areas and that the provisions of the local United Nations security system were being strictly applied. He also indicated that UNICEF was working closely with UNDCP in Putamayo.

366. In addressing Board members and expressing full support for the proposed programmes of cooperation, one delegation stated that ensuring equity was one of the objectives of her Government. In this regard, her Government had promoted children and adolescents as the main theme of the Xth Ibero-America Summit, which it was hosting in November. She noted that equity implied the rights of all children, including the handicapped, and her country was also hosting the International Conference on Disabled Children in October.

East Asia and the Pacific

367. The Acting Regional Director for East Asia and the Pacific presented the full-length country programme proposals for Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Myanmar and Viet Nam (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.9/Add.1-E/ICEF/2000/P/L.13/Add.1, respectively); and two short-duration proposals for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and East Timor (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.38 and E/ICEF/2000/P/L.39, respectively). She noted that all of the country programmes were undertaking initiatives aimed at meeting emerging problems, while attempting to recoup the losses for children of the recent past. No matter what the economic or political situation, there had been progress for children as a result of UNICEF work, as well as progress in dialogues with the Governments on behalf of children.

368. The Acting Regional Director drew attention to several themes that ran through the CPRs: (a) the provision of explicit interventions in response to the growing threat of HIV/AIDS in the region; (b) a clear and deliberate area focus, with a strong emphasis on reducing disparities; (c) an emphasis on encouraging and empowering families and communities to take a more pro-active role in child protection and the promotion of better health, nutrition, education and hygiene; (d) the development of expanded partnerships in the region, and taking into account, as appropriate, CCAs and/or UNDAFs in programme formulation; (e) specific allowance for emergency preparedness and response, as required; and (f) an increased awareness of the need for more disaggregated basic data and improved systems for data management and analysis.

369. One delegation emphasized the good collaboration among UNICEF, USAID and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), which had enabled the three organizations to jointly fund the first Demographic and Health Survey in *Cambodia*. USAID had also supported UNICEF efforts to improve the expanded programme on immunization (EPI) as a transition to GAVI. The same delegation said that as the primary supporter of immunization in Cambodia, UNICEF had achieved remarkable coverage given the poor status of the health system. However, it was felt that polio eradication was the responsibility of the World Health Organization (WHO) and a separate vertical programme within the Ministry of Health, and the delegation suggested that UNICEF continue to explore ways to integrate vertical EPI and polio programmes. Along the same lines, the training and monitoring of health workers also needed to be integrated in nutrition and immunization programmes, and the vitamin A supplementation programme better coordinated with EPI. The speaker said that her Government looked forward to continued collaboration with UNICEF in a number of health activities. Appreciation was expressed for UNICEF support to the community action for social development (CASD) programme, which had strong community linkages, through the use of village development committees and integrated methods, and aimed to improve conditions in rural areas for children and women. UNICEF was urged to maximize the links between CASD programmes and other activities, including those in-house. Finally, the speaker stressed that UNICEF should continue to focus on HIV/AIDS and supported the development and expansion of activities such as voluntary counselling and testing services. However, concern was expressed about the capacity of the provincial hospitals to handle the mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) services as mentioned in the programme. The Acting Regional Director confirmed the very good collaboration between USAID and UNICEF, and added that the UNICEF/WHO team also worked well together.

She said that UNICEF was also concerned about linkages at the community level, an approach strongly supported by UNICEF.

370. While supporting the proposed programme for *China*, a delegation expressed concern about the style and capacity of the programme to effectively deliver the planned services. The goals and objectives identified were seen to be ambitious, especially in view of the available funds and large number of issues to be addressed. It was also felt that the programme might be stretched over too many counties and provinces, resulting in reduced impact. UNICEF was urged to pay greater attention to the health sector. The same speaker was concerned that, in some areas, nutrition activities funded by donors simply translated into the distribution of vitamin A capsules without the benefit of training in nutrition education. It was critical for the success of the programme that the UNICEF China office have adequate health staff to ensure sufficient and effective coverage of such an extensive programme. The Acting Regional Director replied that UNICEF had reviewed concerns about the programme being too dispersed and the lack of staff very carefully, and it was felt that the organization was moving in the right direction.

371. With regard to the *Indonesia* CPR, one delegation said that the five objectives of the programme seemed far too ambitious in view of limited government accountability at the present time. The delegation expressed satisfaction with the increased efforts in the area of health sector reform and endorsed further progress in sector investment programmes and SWAPs. The delegation of the country fully endorsed the programme. Welcoming comments on the programme preparation process, the Acting Regional Director said that the programme accurately reflected the country's concerns. She also noted the important role of UNDAFs/CCAs in bringing Governments and others together to look at programmes in a more holistic manner.

372. Commenting at length on the *Myanmar* CPR on behalf of two delegations, one speaker said that the challenge for the international development community in Myanmar was to provide assistance to the poor without helping the Government, which was largely responsible for their situation, and to work in a way that would encourage a move towards a more democratic, inclusive and participatory Government. Therefore, while supporting the CPR, they did not underestimate the difficulties involved in working on a rights-based approach to programming in Myanmar, especially for agencies such as UNICEF, and wanted to be kept informed of progress in programme implementation. The speaker recalled that at the first regular session in January, his delegation had expressed strong concerns about the current Government, stressing that the conditions did not exist for the successful development of the country or for the elimination of poverty. United Nations agencies, such as UNICEF, were encouraged to examine the scope for a more consistent approach to Myanmar in the context of the ongoing CCA process, including the promotion of a more consistent approach to the extent of collaboration with the State Peace Development Council and to the extent of contact with the National League for Democracy (NLD). United Nations agencies were urged to follow the lead of UNICEF in clarifying the steps they were taking to ensure that the NLD — the democratic representatives of the people — was aware of their work and the possibilities that existed for NLD to feedback any concerns. The same speaker said that it was important that the international community, including UNICEF, should not be seen as enhancing the credibility of the Government. Therefore, the international community should, to the extent possible, avoid collaboration with the

regime. This approach should be shared by UNICEF in line with that adopted by other international agencies. On the other hand, the need for international organizations to work with the Government in tackling public health issues that had regional or cross-border implications, such as polio, HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, was recognized. In that connection, United Nations agencies such as UNICEF should seek to minimize collaboration with the Government in other activities, which should be delivered through civil society organizations, where possible. While there would still be a link with local line ministries, the delegation said that this approach aimed to ensure that there would be no diversion of resources; that the regime was aware of the impact of injustice and the ill-treatment of its women, children and adolescents; that it should understand that it was responsible for the current social welfare situation in the country; and that agencies such as UNICEF would resist attempts by the regime to present United Nations-funded activities as its own.

373. While expressing support for the Myanmar CPR, several other speakers concurred with the previous comments. One delegation strongly supported the principles proposed for the approach that UNICEF should take in the country, including working as much as possible with NGOs, and ensuring consistent, coordinated approaches by United Nations agencies in the field. The speaker was of the opinion that UNICEF was already adhering to those principles and should continue to do so. The delegation concurred that UNICEF contact with the authorities was limited to what was necessary to ensure the effectiveness of its activities and improve the health of the children. He said that his country had a longstanding policy of supporting humanitarian assistance to grass-roots poverty in Myanmar through its NGOs and multilateral organizations that collaborated with UNICEF. A speaker urged United Nations agencies to take a consistent approach in the country and for the Government to increase its health budget. Another speaker was convinced of the general need beyond the programme of monitoring the political system in an open, honest and transparent manner. His delegation strongly supported a coordinated United Nations programme in the country.

374. In response to the extensive comments, the Acting Regional Director said that the Myanmar CPR had been developed in keeping with the historical mandate of UNICEF to help children in need irrespective of the political circumstances and mindful of the views of all segments of the society and the General Assembly resolution on the human rights situation in the country. She added that regular briefings and field visits had been organized for donors in the country.

375. One delegation recalled that when the country note for *Viet Nam* was reviewed at the first regular session in January, the secretariat had been requested to ensure that the final programme included specific details on results to be achieved and coordination with the programmes of other donors. However, while describing a process for establishing objectives and monitoring progress, as well as involving donors at all stages, the CPR lacked such details. Although it was targeted geographically, it was difficult to determine whether UNFPA and UNICEF were targeting the same or different provinces under UNDAF. The delegation was pleased to see that HIV/AIDS was being addressed, not only from the point of view of health and nutrition, but also in terms of MTCT, education, communication, life promotion and child protection programmes. The country delegation commended the work of the country office, affirming that the country programme had been formulated on the basis of close cooperation with government agencies and other

partners, and was fully in accordance with the government strategy for the protection of children and women. The speaker also noted the country programme's compatibility with CCA/UNDAF. Stressing the importance of monitoring, the Acting Regional Director said that UNICEF was working to gather more reliable data. She confirmed the close collaboration between UNICEF and UNFPA, and commented on the increasing number of outposted staff and field trips. She noted especially the positive trends in the country.

376. The country delegation expressed appreciation for the quality of the document and the Board's approval of the country programme for the *Democratic People's Republic of Korea*. He noted that it would encourage the efforts of the people in the face of national disasters.

377. One delegation expressed support for the first ever country programme for *East Timor*.

378. The Regional Director for South Asia presented the Bangladesh CPR (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.14/Add.1). He reported on the significant progress that had been made in the last two decades, while noting that significant challenges remained, including poverty, gender-based inequities, arsenic contamination of groundwater and arsenicosis, and inadequate sanitation coverage. He pointed out that in designing the new programme, the Government and UNICEF had adopted a participatory process under the oversight of the Joint Government-UNICEF Advisory Group. The country programme strategies had built on the CCA and drew on common strategies developed as part of UNDAF.

379. While commending the UNICEF programme strategy in *Bangladesh*, which broadly conformed to the Government's policy priorities, the country delegation expressed particular appreciation for the pioneering role of UNICEF in undertaking the safe drinking water supply programme. The Government, he said, was committed to a child-friendly country and to providing its children with a life full or opportunity, rights and dignity. In response, the Regional Director thanked the Government for the close collaboration in developing the country programme.

Middle East and North Africa

380. The Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa presented short-duration CPRs for Algeria (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.40), Iraq (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.41), Oman (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.43), the Syrian Arab Republic (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.44), and Palestinian children and women in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the West Bank and Gaza (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.45); and a recommendation for funding from other resources without a recommendation for funding from regular resources for Jordan (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.42). He focused on the difficult situation faced by Palestinian children throughout the region, noting that the programme recommendation drew on integrated lessons from past cooperation in order to make objectives more realistic and to focus interventions on improving access to quality basic services and empowering communities through local capacity-building. Oman presented a special case for the region, where a new type of partnership would be implemented and developed, involving a focus on high-technology support, advocacy and the strategic use of studies. The short-duration programmes would enable the preparation, in cooperation with Governments, of a longer country programme for Iraq and full-length country programmes for Algeria and the Syrian Arab Republic. The CPR for Jordan was based on the need to expand the healthy life

skills project benefiting thousands of youth, for which additional other resources had been committed.

381. One speaker expressed his country's agreement with the selected regional strategies, such as providing assistance to traumatized and other vulnerable children, as well as to capacity-building of civil society in *Algeria*.

382. One delegation noted that *Iraq* was the only country in the region where mortality rates for children were on the increase, raising the risk of polio transmission to neighbouring countries. Another delegation highlighted the positive actions taken by UNICEF in providing assessments and informing the international community of the dramatic situation of Iraqi children. He also stated that sanctions should not harm children and, therefore, should be targeted and limited in time. In response to the specific issue of polio eradication, the Regional Director clarified that cases of polio in Iraq were decreasing and that collaborative efforts were under way with WHO for cross-border operations. He appreciated the positive comments made regarding UNICEF activities to ensure that the situation of Iraqi children was better known.

383. Many delegations noted with appreciation the achievements in *Oman*. They pointed out that the emerging challenges would be even more complex, while the financial contribution was modest. The positive contribution of UNICEF to significant progress in improving the lives of children and women was recognized as enabling the Government to meet its national and global commitments. Cooperation with UNICEF should continue, as there was a need to sustain and build upon the achievements made and to address the new challenges. Delegations expressed the hope that the studies and documentation envisaged in the country programme would be used by UNICEF to share the experience of Oman in order to guide future action for other middle-income countries in the region and beyond. In his response, the Regional Director explained that the new modalities emerging in Oman would take into account the challenges still faced not only by the Government, but also by other countries in the region and beyond. He noted that the Government had extended excellent cooperation, and that the lessons learned from the transition process should be shared and documentation would be developed.

384. Another delegation stated her country's agreement with the UNICEF assessment of the situation of *Palestinian children*, and urged that increased financial assistance be provided. She also recommended that UNICEF adhere to the United Nations resolution on the use of the term "Occupied Palestinian Territory".

Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States

385. The Regional Director for Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Baltic States presented the CPRs for Albania, Georgia and Turkey (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.15/Add.1-E/ICEF/2000/P/L.17/Add.1, respectively). In light of his forthcoming retirement, he reflected on UNICEF work in the region over the past four years, noting that the UNICEF approach/strategy remained valid. Consensus had emerged around a number of key priorities that were a manifestation of the three life cycle outcomes of the new Global Agenda for Children for the region. He spoke at length about the situation with regard to HIV/AIDS in the region.

386. Speakers expressed appreciation for the quality of the work of the Regional Director and his team in the region, and wished him well on his retirement from UNICEF. One delegation recognized the efforts made by UNICEF in addressing the comments made at the first regular session in January when the country notes were presented. The delegation was pleased to see the inclusion of reproductive health interventions and that child survival programmes were continuing even as the IMCI initiative was being introduced. UNICEF efforts to improve education, which addressed a broad range of needs, and the special emphasis on HIV/AIDS, were also commended.

387. One delegation said that while UNICEF had defined a wide range of activities and objectives for its programme in *Albania*, implementation and completion were constrained by inadequate financial and human resources. A greater impact would be achieved if priority areas were identified based on available resources, needs and the comparative advantage of UNICEF.

388. On the *Georgia* programme, a delegation supported increased UNICEF funding for the MCH programme and encouraged additional increases given the findings of the multiple indicator cluster surveys earlier in the year. The speaker wanted to see more of a connection between legal reform and the appropriate implementation efforts in Georgia. UNICEF was urged to improve its coordination efforts with other donors, which would be particularly important as regional efforts to combat HIV/AIDS were planned.

389. On the *Turkey* CPR, a delegation mentioned that while the programme was quite ambitious, it reflected both technical and geographic targeting which could help to improve results and increase impact. He noted that both immunization and reproductive health, which had not been addressed in the country note, were now included in the programme. Coordination with the donor community, administrative health and other implementing partners appeared to be strong. The same speaker was also pleased to learn about the programme to build the capacity of the Ministry of Interior in the area of decentralized planning and resource mobilization. The country delegation stated that his Government was undertaking efforts to significantly improve the well-being of its children and women in the context of its commitment to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The goals and objectives of the two Conventions had been widely disseminated to the public, and government administrative and implementing structures had been strengthened. He reported that the President of Turkey had launched a campaign to promote the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which had led to a National Congress for Children in April 2000. The delegation commended the UNICEF country office in Turkey for its active role and cooperation with the Government and NGOs in the planning and implementation of future policies and programmes.

390. The Regional Director thanked all delegations for their kind personal words and also for their comments, which had been noted, and support for the country programmes of the region.

391. See annex II, decision 2000/12, for the recommendations approved by the Executive Board.

Recommendations for additional regular resources for approved country programmes

392. The Board had before it a request for approval of additional regular resources for 21 country programmes whose planning levels, based on the modified allocation system and estimated global levels of programmable regular resources, were higher than their balances of approved funds (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.46). (See annex II, decision 2000/13, for the recommendations approved by the Executive Board.)

B. Health matters

Oral report on recent initiatives and partnerships in immunization, including the Global Alliance on Vaccines and Immunization

393. The Deputy Executive Director, Programme and Strategic Planning, briefed the Board on UNICEF work in immunization, in particular in the areas of polio eradication, elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus, accelerated measles control, the Vaccine Independence Initiative and GAVI. He emphasized that immunization remained a UNICEF priority — an important intervention that saved the lives of 3 million children each year — which had even greater life-saving potential as new vaccines were developed against major diseases. Immunization continued to be one of the most effective and cost-effective public health interventions.

394. Delegations expressed widespread support for UNICEF immunization activities. Speakers welcomed GAVI in the context of both UNICEF work and United Nations reform. They also welcomed the key role of UNICEF in procurement, in holding and managing the Global Fund Trust Account at UNICEF and in hosting the GAVI Secretariat, as well as its work with the Advocacy Task Force.

395. However, several delegations cautioned against vertical programming. They emphasized that the entire thrust of current development and poverty reduction strategies was to make programming cross-sectoral. These delegations expressed the hope that the GAVI process would avoid verticality, and encouraged UNICEF to ensure that this was built into the development of GAVI-endorsed programmes. One delegation expressed concern that efforts in immunization would be to the detriment of much needed programmes in education. The Deputy Executive Director explained that immunization work in UNICEF was within an overall child development framework, and that the country programme would remain the centre of all that UNICEF did at the country level.

396. A number of delegations requested further information on GAVI governance issues. While speakers welcomed the apparently increased commitment from the private sector to support government programmes in immunization, it was repeatedly stressed that government ownership must be at the very heart of GAVI. In that regard, two delegations reported that their Governments had decided to make contributions to support the work of GAVI, but had not determined how to direct the resources.

397. Several delegations encouraged the secretariat to monitor the effect of GAVI on UNICEF resource mobilization for immunization. Clarification was requested on the fact that special consideration was being given by the GAVI Board to

programmes for China, India and Indonesia. One delegation stated that GAVI should support middle-income as well as lower-income countries. Another speaker suggested that production could be shifted from multilateral pharmaceutical companies to local companies in developing countries. It was further suggested that support be given to countries to purchase vaccines in their own currencies.

398. A number of delegations expressed their appreciation and support to UNICEF efforts in polio eradication. One delegation requested information on whether the GAVI strategy took into consideration the handling of emergencies and the plight of refugees. A number of delegations stated that partnerships with the private sector were beneficial, but it was also important to have clear rules governing these efforts.

399. The Executive Director stated that, as regards partnerships and alliances, the long-standing National Committee relationship was an indication that UNICEF had been dealing successfully with the private sector for quite a long time. She emphasized that education was a very high priority for UNICEF, and pointed to the Millennium Summit Forum on Girls' Education and to the Board presentation by the Regional Director for West and Central Africa. She assured Board members that education would not suffer in light of efforts in immunization. In fact, education was now considered in emergency responses, as health had been all along. She explained that the primary way of reporting on immunization would continue to be through the CPR. She said that the secretariat would prepare a report on UNICEF activities in immunization, including GAVI, for the annual session of the Executive Board in 2001. The secretariat would also provide informal briefings upon request.

Recommendations for extension of cooperation with Rotary International for polio eradication and for the extension of the Vaccine Independence Initiative

400. The Deputy Executive Director, Programme and Strategic Planning, introduced document E/ICEF/2000/P/L.47 in which the Board was being asked to approve a five-year extension of the programme of cooperation with the PolioPlus programme of Rotary International for the period of 2001-2005, and an additional $20 million in other resources; and an extension of the Vaccine Independence Initiative for the period 2001-2005, with an increase of $10 million in other resources, to a total ceiling of $20 million.

401. The representative of Rotary International expressed appreciation for UNICEF efforts in polio eradication, which was a top priority. He noted the effective partnership with the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and with WHO. The representative of WHO expressed his organization's support of the recommendations and said that all those cooperating in the fight against polio spoke with one voice. He brought the attention of Board members to the Global Polio Partners Summit that would be held the following week at United Nations Headquarters. (See annex II, decision 2000/14, for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board.)

C. Oral report on decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council

402. The Deputy Executive Director, Internal Management, Administration and Finance, provided delegations with an overview of decisions taken at the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2000 that would have particular

relevance for UNICEF. She also identified steps already taken by UNICEF in response to the requests of the Council.

403. She noted that the "Report of the Executive Director (Part I): annual report to the Economic and Social Council", to be submitted to the Board at its first regular session of 2001, would be oriented, as requested by the Executive Board, towards the role of UNICEF in the integrated follow-up to international conferences. In addition, at the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly in the fall of 2001, many of the issues dealt with regularly at UNICEF or as UNDG matters would be taken up in the context of the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities. She noted that much of the follow-up to Economic and Social Council decisions was already being considered in the context of UNDG and the other Executive Committees, in particular the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs and the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs, as well as in other inter-agency and interdepartmental committees.

404. On specific issues taken up at the Council, she reported that the high-level segment had as its theme, "Development and international cooperation in the twenty-first century: the role of information technology in the context of a knowledge-based global economy". The resulting ministerial declaration called for actions by the United Nations system, specifically the creation of an information and communication technology task force. She stated that UNICEF was participating in the process to establish the task force.

405. The Deputy Executive Director reported that the Council had adopted a decision on progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/192 of 15 December 1998 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities. In addition to reaffirming the processes of harmonization, simplification, transparency, evaluations and greater cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, the resolution welcomed the Girls' Education Initiative and gave instruction on reporting, in particular to report on MYFF as part of the next triennial policy review and to participate actively in the Secretariat evaluation of operational activities.

406. The resolution specifically called for submission to the Council, through the Executive Board, of information and analysis on the integration into programme priorities of the cross-cutting themes and goals from the international conferences. As stated earlier, this request had already been made at the January 2000 Board session, and the secretariat was incorporating a request for precisely this sort of information in the instructions to country representatives for preparation of their annual reports. Reporting on the basis of themes and cross-cutting themes had also been requested by National Committees, to which the secretariat was responding.

407. The humanitarian affairs segment of the Council, which focused on internal displacement and on technology and natural disasters, had heard from panels comprising heads of agencies and humanitarian coordinators. Delegations were unable to reach agreement, however, on specific conclusions, and the segment ended with the adoption of a procedural resolution calling for further strengthening of coordination of emergency assistance. The Deputy Executive Director stated that the secretariat would report at the first regular session of the Board in 2001 in this regard.

408. Finally, in its resolution on basic indicators for the integrated and coordinated follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, there was a request for the Executive Boards of United Nations funds and programmes, with the support of the Statistics Division, to review the CCA indicator framework and report to the next session of the Council. This issue had been taken up within the context of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs and of UNDG. The aim was a common and coordinated response, to be endorsed in early October.

409. Concerning reporting to the Board on follow-up to Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) reports, the Deputy Executive Director stated that in the past, this topic had been included in part II of the Executive Director's annual report to the Board. As such, while fulfilling the requirement to report on follow-up to relevant JIU reports, it likely did not get the exposure warranted. The secretariat proposed that beginning in January 2001, a brief addendum to part I of the Executive Director's annual report would be added. In this way, the recommendations of JIU and follow-up action would be more prominently presented, without creating a separate agenda item or report.

410. One delegation requested that the report include information on UNICEF activities in support of the five-year follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development.

D. Financial medium-term plan for the period 2000-2003

411. The Deputy Executive Director, Internal Management, Administration and Finance, introduced the financial MTP for the period 2000-2003 (E/ICEF/2000/AB/L.5) as an important document that would enable the Executive Board to review the previous year's financial plan as well as the updated income projections. It would also provide the Board with a basis for determining the level of programme submissions that should be prepared for the sessions in 2001. On performance in 1999, the Deputy Executive Director stated that it was an unusual year when total income of $1.118 billion exceeded the MTP projections by $109 million, a 16 per cent increase over 1998. She pointed out, however, that the increase in total income was not reflected in regular resources, and added further that this and the no growth projections in 2000 regular resources were a cause for concern for the secretariat. She underlined the importance of regular resources as a source of funding for UNICEF programmes of cooperation, programme support, and management and administration. They also served as the basis for providing institutional structure to enable UNICEF to receive other resources and manage them efficiently and effectively.

412. Regarding other resources, the Deputy Executive Director reported an increase of $139 million over 1998 and expressed the hope that the ratio of other resources to total income, which had grown from 40 per cent during the past 15 years to 47 per cent in 1999, would not be the trend of the future. She added that while UNICEF recognized the important role other resources played in providing funds for the expansion of important programmes in many countries and responding to emergencies, they could not take the place of regular resources.

413. On income projections, the Deputy Executive Director stated that government contributions remained static from 1998-1999 and were projected to decrease by $4 million in 2000. She also reported a slowing down in private sector contribution

projections in 2000 to regular resources, and pointed to the strengthening of the United States dollar as the major reason for not realizing the benefits of many increases in government pledges. In concluding, she expressed the hope that Governments and National Committees would increase their contributions to regular resources.

414. Several delegations commended the secretariat for its well-structured document and clear and coherent presentation. A few delegations stated that the financial MTP was clear and realistic, but not sufficiently analytical.

415. Several delegations noted with satisfaction that total income for 1999 had exceeded MTP projections, while expressing concern that the increase was mainly in other resources rather than regular resources. Some speakers stated that the stagnating growth in regular resources income presented a sobering picture that called for more effective action in fund-raising. It was also pointed out that the increase in other resources income in 1999 was mostly for emergencies, and while this was welcome and appreciated, Board members should not lose sight of the "silent emergencies" that needed greater assistance. Concern was also expressed at the lower than expected growth in government contributions to regular resources and the adverse impact this would have on programme implementation. One delegation stated that the focus on the proportion of regular resources to other resources income received appeared to be misplaced, adding that emphasis should be on base contributions rather than proportions.

416. Some delegations described the 2000-2003 income projections as sound and reasonable, while one delegation found the income projections in table 3 of the report disconcerting as the breakdown showed a different pattern than previous years. A few speakers expressed skepticism at the flat projections for other resources and asked the secretariat to explain the assumptions behind the numbers. One delegation asked how the secretariat aimed to achieve the income projections for 2000-2003 while the strength of the United States dollar continued to erode contributions in other currencies. Another delegation stated that a 3 per cent increase in regular resources income in 2001 might be difficult to achieve at the present rate of exchange and asked why the secretariat continued to budget in United States dollars when most contributions were received in European currencies. The same delegation suggested budgeting in European currencies and increasing procurement in the European Union as options the secretariat could pursue to minimize the adverse impact of a strong United States dollar. Another delegation characterized the 2000-2003 income projections for the private sector as rather optimistic. Additional information on the size of contributions in currencies other than the United States dollar was requested by several speakers to enable a clearer assessment of the impact of exchange rate fluctuations on UNICEF income. One delegation asked what steps the secretariat had taken to hedge in order to minimize the adverse impact of fluctuations in exchange rates.

417. On the size of government contributions impacted by the strength of the United States dollar, the secretariat responded that about 35 per cent were paid and pledged in United States dollars, and 65 per cent in non-United States dollars, while on the expenditure side, the percentage of United States/non-United States dollars was about 50 per cent. The secretariat added that the non-United States dollar portion was higher for private sector contributions, and generally UNICEF lost on the income side more than it gained on the expenditure side as a result of the strength of

the United States dollar. The secretariat estimated the shortfall in income due to the strength of the United States dollar to be around $20 million and promised to provide detailed analysis on the impact of exchange rate fluctuations on income in the next MTP.

418. One delegation stated that, given actual performance during the last two years, the revised funding target of 5 per cent annual growth to reach $1.5 billion by 2005 was much more realistic than the 7 per cent target set in the MYFF; another delegation declared the same target as unrealistic based on decreased income projections for 2000. Several delegations highlighted the need to accelerate fund-raising efforts. One delegation stated that 20/20 was a key fund-raising initiative that deserved mention in the financial MTP.

419. One delegation praised the secretariat for its collaborative work with other partners such as GAVI and expressed support for the secretariat's principle to increase programme expenditure while maintaining regular resources liquidity. Another speaker stated that sector-wide programming was becoming more prevalent and asked the secretariat to comment on its participation, particularly on pooling of funds. The same delegation noted the sizeable increase in trust funds and wanted to know the impact on UNICEF activities. The secretariat was requested to clarify how it had arrived at the amount of $640 million for programmes to be prepared for Executive Board sessions in 2001.

420. On how the total amount for new programme submissions to the Board in 2001 was arrived at, the secretariat responded that the total amount of programme submissions to each Board depended on the number and duration of country programme submissions to that Board. The secretariat further explained that $640 million represented the total dollar estimate of 60 country programme submissions that would be prepared for Board sessions in 2001 using the Executive Board approved allocation criteria of regular resources and based on the income projections of the financial MTP. Regarding trust funds, the secretariat acknowledged their growing importance and added that they included a number of activities, including oil for food and procurement services. The secretariat also responded that it would address the whole issue of SWAPs, including pooling of funds, at a Board session next year. (See annex II, decision 2000/18, for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board.)

E. Oral report on implementation of the modified system on allocation of regular resources for programmes

421. An oral report on implementation of the modified system for allocation of regular resources for programmes was presented by the Deputy Executive Director, Internal Management, Administration and Finance. She outlined the objectives of the system, which entered into effect in January 1999, as well as the methodology for allocating regular resources, the impact of the system and the objectives of the 7 per cent set-aside.

422. She explained that the modified system was based on three existing core criteria: the under-five mortality rate; the gross national product per capita; and the child population. This gives progressively higher priority to the children of low income countries (LICs), in particular least developed countries (LDCs) and those of sub-Saharan Africa. Based on the modified system, each country with a UNICEF

country programme receives a minimum allocation of $600,000 for core programming, 18 per cent of the total regular resources for programmes. The regular resources allocated on the basis of the three core criteria, using the modified formula and refined weighting system, absorb 69 per cent of the total regular resources for programmes.

423. Concerning the impact of the modified system in terms of the allocation of regular resources among regions and to LICs and LDCs, the Deputy Executive Director said that in only its second year of implementation, it had responded very well to placing resources where they were needed most. LICs had seen their share of regular resources increase from 80 per cent in 1998 to 83 per cent in 2000, and a projected 84 per cent in 2004. Within LICs, LDCs had increased from 46 per cent of the total regular resources allocation in 1998 to 52 per cent in 2000, and a projected 54 per cent by 2004. In sub-Saharan Africa, there had been a significant increase in the share of regular resources from 38 per cent in 1998 to 46 per cent in 2000, and a projected 48 per cent by 2004. Those countries with very high infant mortality rates had witnessed real improvements in the allocation of regular resources, from 34 per cent in 1998 to 43 per cent in 2000, and a projected 45 per cent by 2004.

424. Turning to the 7 per cent set-aside, the Deputy Executive Director recalled the objectives for which the set-aside had been introduced. She noted that in 1999, its first year of operation, the set-aside had an allocation of $21.4 million. The criteria used in the distribution of the funds were based on achieving the set objectives, with particular emphasis on achieving results in programme priority areas and making up the regular resources shortfall so as to achieve the targets set by the country programmes. She explained further that the majority of the funds had been used for immunization programmes (53 per cent), HIV/AIDS (11 per cent) and malaria interventions (9 per cent), early childhood care programmes (8 per cent) and guinea worm eradication (5 per cent). Sub-Saharan Africa continued to receive the majority (65 per cent) of the resources allocated. In 2000, $26.2 million dollars have been allocated to the set-aside, and again the main interventions were immunization, HIV/AIDS and malaria, accounting for 76 per cent of the resources, with sub-Saharan Africa and Asia receiving a total of 79 per cent of the funds.

425. In conclusion, the Deputy Executive Director stated that the modified system was working well in terms of ensuring that countries with the greatest needs received the most support from regular resources. The UNICEF objective was to increase both regular resources and other resources for all countries to be able to fulfil the rights of children and women, but the criteria for the allocation of those resources had to be based on achieving results for the vulnerable.

426. Two delegations expressed appreciation for the detailed presentation. The first speaker noted that his country's economy was improving after going through a very difficult period, during which the support from UNICEF was much needed. Even now with the turnaround in the economy, UNICEF support was still needed as no country had graduated beyond support for the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

427. The second speaker noted that resources for Asia had declined over the period 1996 to 2000 and that in the next review in 2003, the allocation of regular resources to Asia would be closely monitored.

428. The Deputy Executive Director thanked the delegations for their comments and said that UNICEF would continue support to countries, even as regular resources were reduced. She noted that regular resources allocations would be monitored closely on a continuous basis and that the 7 per cent set-aside would be used to mitigate some of the problems of reduced regular resources.

F. Private Sector Division financial report and statements for the year ended 31 December 1999

429. The Director, PSD, presented the financial report and statement for the 12-month period ending 31 December 1999 (E/ICEF/2000/AB/L.6). He pointed out that 1999 was a record year for the division and the results achieved were better than the plan. The revenue growth was recorded both in card and product sales as well as in private sector fund-raising. The net income growth from PSD operations benefited also from better cost controls, helped by a strong United States dollar. However, the Director also stated that the continuing strength of United States dollar would significantly impact revenues for 2000, which was a cause for concern for the division.

430. Most of the delegations addressing this agenda item complemented PSD for the 1999 performance and were appreciative of the new initiatives taken by PSD management. One delegation commented on the positive contribution of PSD-funded investments on National Committee activities. While complementing the National Committees for a successful year, many delegations noted the disproportionate increase in other resources and challenged the Committees to focus on increasing regular resources for the organization. While there was general support for the increased collaboration with the corporate sector, many speakers cautioned UNICEF against underselling the brand name, and also requested that the guidelines for corporate alliances be shared with the Board. The Executive Director also stressed the importance of regular resources and urged the National Committees to improve allocations in this area. She agreed to organize an inter-sessional meeting before the January 2001 Board session in order to provide insight into the practices and experiences of UNICEF engagement with the private sector.

431. In response to comments about greater increases in proceeds from private sector fund-raising than from cards and products, the Director, PSD, said that the organization recognized the former as a growth area and expected the trend towards more private sector fund-raising contributions to continue. This would, of course, warrant more financial and human resources allocations to this area. The stagnating trend in greeting card volume was highlighted by many delegations. The Director, in his presentation, had informed delegations about the establishment of a Global Private Sector Task Force. The group included the participation of National Committees and would assess the revenue-generating activities. A report from the Task Force was expected in early 2001 and would be shared with the Executive Board. (See annex II, decision 2000/16, for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board.)

G. Report on internal audit activities

432. In presenting the report on internal audit activities (E/ICEF/1999/AB/L.14), the newly appointed Director of the Office of Internal Audit (OIA) noted that field audits had again exceeded the annual coverage target of 30 per cent of all field offices. OIA had secured nearly universal acceptance of recommendations during 1999, and over 75 per cent of audited offices had voluntarily included an action plan to address highlighted recommendations within the final audit report.

433. Based on the 1999 audits, OIA concluded that the standard of internal control in UNICEF remained positive. However, there was a slight downturn in control over the previous year at some locations due to the challenges of fully implementing the Programme Manager System (ProMS) in 1999. The report noted increased attention by OIA to programme-related issues in recent years, and the Director stated that performance audits would increasingly be featured in the division's work.

434. Many delegations stated that the report was concise, substantive and informative, and demonstrated UNICEF transparency. A number of delegations requested management response and increased attention to strengthening end-use monitoring of supplies. One delegation wished to draw attention to the financial and physical management of PSD activities in field offices.

435. Several delegations highlighted the lateness of donor reports. Other speakers expressed concern about ProMS in general and questioned whether problems were expected to be transient or long term. The Deputy Executive Director, Internal Management, Administration and Finance, responded that there had been two mammoth exercises in 1999, the introduction of ProMS and the Field Logistics System. The systems were working more smoothly now and, therefore, the timeliness of donor reporting would improve.

436. One delegation welcomed project-level assessment methodology and suggested more such analysis in future reports. A number of delegations noted the issue of single-source contracting of consultants. The Deputy Executive Director replied that UNICEF had delegated the hiring to field offices, and many of the consultants were recruited locally following agreed guidelines.

437. Some delegations were interested in learning more from future audits about the implementation of evaluations within programmes — particularly evaluations with some degree of independence. One delegation reinforced the need for UNICEF to demonstrate effectiveness of performance, efficiency and zero tolerance of wrongdoing at a time of falling donor support to the United Nations and related agencies.

438. Concern was expressed about the management of common services issues in the field. The Deputy Executive Director noted that a workshop had been held within the context of UNDG, and it was agreed that there should be more than one model for common services because of the many different country situations.

439. One delegation requested an overall summary of the state of controls in UNICEF and more information on the risk ratings — with more quantitative details. Another speaker expressed an interest in programme audit methodologies, particularly the project-level assessment tool, and highlighted the need for increased capacity-building with partners for the effective management of cash assistance. Concern was expressed regarding issues related to cash assistance management.

(See annex II, decision 2000/17, for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board.)

H. Programme of work for 2001

440. The programme of work for Executive Board sessions in 2001 (E/ICEF/2000/15) was presented by the Secretary of the Executive Board, who addressed the issue of the impact of MYFF on the items to be included on the agendas of future sessions.

441. One speaker expressed appreciation for the strategic approach to the work of the Board. The same speaker, supported by several others, requested the secretariat to circulate in advance a list of the country notes/CPRs being submitted to the Board in 2001. He also wanted more specific reporting in the annual report of the Executive Director to the Economic and Social Council. Board members also requested that summaries of oral reports be circulated to Board members a few days before the start of each session as the oral reports did not facilitate dialogue and that the secretariat consider adding an agenda item on basic education to the programme of work for 2001. On the latter request, the President said that it might be possible to consider building some profile around education at the second regular session in connection with the report on the meeting of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization/UNICEF Joint Committee on Education, and the Executive Director said that the secretariat would work out the details. (See annex II, decision 2000/18, for the programme of work for 2001 adopted by the Executive Board.)

I. Other matters

442. One delegation highlighted the importance of the General Assembly Special Session on Children, stating that it was an opportunity to take stock of achievements over the last decade. She requested that the agenda of the Special Session cover early childhood care and development; children in need of special protection; and increased child participation.

443. Concerning the relocation of the regional office for the Americas and the Caribbean, the Executive Director stated that it was the policy of the secretariat to periodically review the location of its eight regional offices. Over the last six months, UNICEF had been engaged in a review of the Santafé de Bogotá office largely because of programming trends in the region. She agreed that the secretariat should have consulted more thoroughly with the Government of Colombia, but stressed that the UNICEF presence in Colombia would remain strong because in addition to the country office, a subregional office would be established in Santafé de Bogotá to oversee activities in Venezuela and to handle both the Amazon programme and PROANDES (Programme for the Andean region).

444. The representative of Colombia concurred that there had been a basic lack of communication. He stressed that the move was not simply a management issue, but had political ramifications as well. He appreciated that the secretariat had made efforts to correct the situation and stated that there had been a fruitful dialogue. He suggested that, in future, implementation of such decisions be preceded by extensive consultations with all parties.

445. Another delegation reported on the International Conference on War-affected Children that had been held in Winnipeg, Canada, from 10 to 17 September. She outlined the structure of the conference, which featured a youth meeting, an experts meeting chaired by UNICEF, and a ministerial-level meeting. She welcomed the participation of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, as well as Graca Machel, who provided a five-year follow-up review of her report *Impact of Armed Conflict on Children*. The highlight of the conference was the effective and powerful participation of youth, and she emphasized that such participation would enhance the effectiveness of the Special Session on Children. She further encouraged all Governments to sign and ratify the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Labour Organization Convention 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. She recommended that this should be done before the Special Session.

446. One delegation invited UNICEF and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to organize a regional workshop in Sudan on children in armed conflict. The recommendations of the workshop would then be given to regional heads of State.

447. The President of the Board reminded delegations that the General Assembly had designated the decade 2001-2010 as the International Decade for a Culture of Peace for the Children of the World.

448. The Executive Director stated that the Special Session on Children was only one year away and that there was some concern that adequate funding would not be secured to manage the process. She reported that generous donations had been made by the Governments of Cyprus, Finland, Greece and the United Kingdom to the trust fund established to enable LDCs to attend the Special Session. In addition, the Governments of Ireland and the United Kingdom would be making contributions to the operation of the secretariat of the Session. She thanked these Governments and encouraged others to follow their example.

449. She then paid tribute to John Donohue, Regional Director for Central and Eastern Europe, CIS and the Baltic States, who was retiring. Through his leadership and thoughtfulness, he had made significant contributions to the Brazil country office, at headquarters in the area of evaluation, and most recently in his post as regional director. She also paid tribute to Daniel Toole, her chief of staff, and Marianne Kelly, her assistant, both of whom would be taking on new responsibilities, and welcomed Saad Houry as her new chief of staff.

450. She then announced the winners of the Staff Awards for 1999, which were given to UNICEF offices for their exemplary work during natural disasters. The staff of the UNICEF country office in Venezuela and the Colombia area office were recognized for their dedication and teamwork in providing emergency assistance in the aftermath of devastating floods in northern Venezuela in December 1999. The staff of the UNICEF country office in Turkey were singled out for their remarkable display of emergency preparedness and effective interventions during the aftermath of the earthquakes that devastated most of the north-western part of Turkey in August and November 1999.

451. The Executive Director announced the tally for signing of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. As of the Board session, 69 Governments had signed the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and three countries had ratified it. As for the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, 64 countries had signed, and one country had ratified. She noted that there had been great progress in this regard because of the many countries that had signed during the Millennium Summit.

J. Closing of the session

452. The Executive Director thanked Board members for their contributions, guidance and assistance. Once again, she reminded delegations that it was only one year until the Special Session on Children and that country reports on progress in meeting the goals of the World Summit for Children, which were requested by the Secretary-General, were due. She looked forward to the second substantive session of the Preparatory Committee in January and would engage the UNICEF Executive Board in broad consultations. The Board would be playing a key role in the Special Session.

453. With regard to the issue of immunization, she looked forward to continuing discussions. She stressed that education was and would continue to be central to the work of UNICEF and would not suffer as efforts in immunization expanded. She drew the attention of Board members to the Summit of Global Polio Partners the following week, and expressed the wish that there would be serious participation by key countries. She stressed that there would be active follow-up to the pledges made at the International Conference on War-affected Children.

454. She acknowledged the leadership of the President of the Executive Board, who was presiding over his last session of the year. His leadership in support of children was evident everywhere — in the Security Council, the Fifth Committee, the Bureau and the Board. She thanked the entire Bureau for its contributions.

455. On another matter, she announced that UNICEF was the chair of the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations of UNAIDS, and she encouraged everyone to engage in the "war of liberation" regarding the pandemic.

456. The President of the Board stated that the coming weeks and months would be very important for the world's children. The Special Session on Children would be a milestone, requiring the focused attention of the Board. As these efforts would be in addition to the very full programme of work adopted by the Board, he recommended that delegations "brace themselves" in order to do as much as possible in the coming year for children.

Annex I

GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO REGULAR RESOURCES FOR YEARS 1998 TO 2000 AND INDICATIVE PLEDGES FOR 2001 AND 2002

Pledges received as at 2 February, 2000

(Expressed in thousands of currency pledged and in United States dollars equivalents)

(This matrix shows firm pledges and indicative pledges from member states. A number of countries -unable to make pledges at this time- indicated expectations that their contributions would exceed current levels of support. If those countries were added to the matrix at current levels of contributions, the total government contributions at current exchange rates would amount to 94.4% of the MTP projection of USD 363 millions)

Country	1998 Actual Local currency	1998 Actual US$	1999 Provisional (a) Local currency	1999 Provisional (a) US$	2000 Pledge Local currency	2000 Pledge US$	2001 Indication Local currency	2001 Indication US$	2002 Indication Local currency	2002 Indication US$
Afghanistan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Albania	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Algeria	-	-	20.0	20.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Andorra	12.0	12.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Angola	-	-	-	-	-	- (j)	-	-	-	-
Antigua-Barbuda	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Argentina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Armenia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Australia	4,456.0	2,970.7	4,590.0	2,809.1	4,672.0	3,033.8 (h)	-	-	-	-
Austria	21,000.0	1,694.0	20,000.0	1,585.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Azerbaijan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bahamas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bahrain	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bangladesh	30.0	30.0	32.0	32.0	34.5	34.5 (g,h)	-	-	-	-
Barbados	8.0	4.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belarus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belgium	80,000.0	2,156.3	80,000.0	2,313.6	-	- (i)	-	-	-	-
Belize	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benin	3.5	3.5	4.0	4.0	4.5	4.5 (g)	-	-	-	-
Bhutan	605.0	20.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bolivia	195.0	195.0 (e)	20.0	20.0	10.0	10.0 (h)	-	-	-	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Botswana	20.0	5.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brazil	300.0	300.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
British Virgin Islands	-	-	38.4	38.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bulgaria	180.0	0.1	250.0	0.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Burkina Faso	3,000.0	5.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Burundi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cambodia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Country	1998 Actual		1999 Provisional (a)		2000 Pledge		2001 Indication		2002 Indication	
	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$
Cameroon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada	13,500.0	9,574.5	13,500.0	8,940.4	-	- (j)	-	-	-	-
Cape Verde	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Central African Republic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chad	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chile	70.0	70.0 (b)	70.0	70.0 (b)	70.0	70.0 (b,g)	-	-	-	-
China	1,100.0	1,100.0 (b)	1,100.0	1,100.0	1,100.0	1,100.0 (b,g,h)	-	-	-	-
Colombia	450.0	450.0	450.0	450.0	450.0	450.0 (g,h)	-	-	-	-
Comoros	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Costa Rica	3,300.0	12.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cote D'Ivoire	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Croatia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cuba	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0 (b,g,h)	-	-	-	-
Cyprus	-	-	-	-	0.5	0.9 (f,g)	-	-	-	-
Czech Republic	4,000.0	120.8	5,000.0	166.6	5,000.0	139.1 (g)	-	-	-	-
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	25.0	11.7	-	-	30.0	14.1 (g)	-	-	-	-
Democratic Republic of Congo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Denmark	200,000.0	30,467.2	190,000.0	26,443.8	190,000.0	25,640.5 (h)	200,000.0	26,990.0 (h,i)	200,000.0	26,990.0 (h,i)
Djibouti	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dominica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dominican Republic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ecuador	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Egypt	130.0	38.3	-	-	130.0	38.0 (g)	-	-	-	-
El Salvador	25.0	25.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eritrea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Estonia	18.6	18.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ethiopia	49.3	49.3	49.3	49.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fiji	4.8	2.5	4.8	2.4	5.1	2.6 (h)	-	-	-	-

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Country	1998 Actual		1999 Provisional (a)		2000 Pledge		2001 Indication		2002 indication	
	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$
Finland	63,842.8	11,822.7 (l)	64,000.0	11,271.7	-	- (j)	-	-	-	-
France	47,000.0	7,981.4	49,000.0	7,848.5 (c)	48,000.0	7,202.4 (h)	-	-	-	-
Gabon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gambia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Germany	11,000.0	5,978.3	10,700.0	5,921.1	8,500.0	4,367.9 (h)	-	-	-	-
Ghana	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0 (g)	-	-	-	-
Greece	200.0	200.0	230.0	230.0 (f)	-	- (j)	-	-	-	-
Grenada	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guatemala	190.0	31.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guinea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guinea Bissau	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guyana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Haiti	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Holy See	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Honduras	47.2	47.2	22.2	22.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hong Kong	11.4	11.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hungary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iceland	8,936.2	133.0	8,858.6	131.8	9,500.0	130.2 (f,h)	-	-	-	-
India	29,200.0	694.7 (b)	31,000.0	715.8	31,000.0	716.7 (g)	-	-	-	-
Indonesia	190.6	190.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iran (Ismalic Republic of)	-	-	-	-	50.0	50.0 (e)	-	-	-	-
Iraq	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ireland	1,352.0	1,896.0	1,427.5	1,927.9 (l)	-	- (j)	-	-	-	-
Israel	40.0	40.0	55.0	55.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Italy	12,000,000.0	6,779.7	14,000,000.0	7,758.0	-	- (j)	-	-	-	-
Jamaica	17.0	0.5 (b)	-	-	60.0	60.0 (b,g)	-	-	-	-
Japan	25,533.0	25,533.0	25,215.0	25,215.0	26,600.0	26,600.0 (f, h)	-	-	-	-
Jordan	10.0	14.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kazakhstan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Country	1998 Actual		1999 Provisional (a)		2000 Pledge		2001 Indication		2002 Indication	
	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$
Kenya	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kiribati	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kuwait	-	-	200.0	200.0 (i)	200.0	200.0 (g,i)	-	-	-	-
Kyrgyzstan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lao People's Democratic Republic	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0 (g)	-	-	-	-
Latvia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lebanon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesotho	-	-	23.6	4.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Liberia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Liechtenstein	5.0	3.4	7.0	5.1	7.0	4.6 (g)	-	-	-	-
Lithuania	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Luxembourg	13,986.5	368.1	16,000.0	463.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Madagascar	500.0	1.4 (k)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malawi	60.0	1.4	60.0	1.4	60.0	1.4 (g)	-	-	-	-
Malaysia	84.0	84.0	84.0	84.0	84.0	84.0 (g,f)	-	-	-	-
Maldives	5.0	5.0	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5 (g)	-	-	-	-
Mali	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malta	4.1	4.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marshall Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mauritania	500.0	2.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mauritius	180.0	7.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mexico	202.4	202.4 (b)	200.0	200.0	200.0	200.0 (g)	-	-	-	-
Micronesia (Federated States of)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Monaco	79.8	13.1	86.3	15.3	87.4	14.0 (g)	-	-	-	-
Mongolia	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	11.0	11.0 (g,h)	-	-	-	-
Morocco	75.0	75.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mozambique	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myanmar	1,560.2	6.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Namibia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Country	1998 Actual		1999 Provisional (a)		2000 Pledge		2001 Indication		2002 Indication	
	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$
Nauru	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nepal	637.0	10.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Netherlands	52,000.0	25,836.8	52,000.0	27,531.9	52,000.0	23,716.2 (h)	52,000.0	23,716.2 (h,i)	52,000.0	23,716.2 (h,i)
New Zealand	1,400.0	818.7	1,500.0	789.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nicaragua	26.0	26.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Niger	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nigeria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Norway	290,000.0	38,402.6	280,000.0	36,940.4	280,000.0	34,826.4 (h)	-	-	-	-
Oman	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0 (g)	-	-	-	-
Pakistan	-	-	2,750.0	56.5 (b)	2,700.0	52.7 (h)	-	-	-	-
Palau	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Panama	16.7	16.7	33.6	33.6 (e)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Papua New Guinea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paraguay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peru	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Philippines	140.5	140.5 (b)	48.1	48.1 (b)	50.5	50.5 (b,h,f)	-	-	-	-
Poland	-	-	155.5	46.0	208.0	51.5 (g,f)	-	-	-	-
Portugal	200.0	200.0	200.0	200.0	200.0	200.0 (h)	-	-	-	-
Qatar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Republic of Korea	1,000.0	1,000.0	1,200.0	1,200.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Republic of Moldova	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Romania	14,723.6	1.5	85,276.4	5.3	210,000.0	11.7 (f,g,h)	-	-	-	-
Russian Federation	500.0	500.0	500.0	500.0	500.0	500.0 (f,g,h)	500.0	500.0 (h,i)	500.0	500.0 (h,i)
Rwanda	1,397.0	4.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saint Kitts & Nevis	-	-	2.7	2.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saint Lucia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Samoa	-	-	1.0	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
San Marino	39,749.2	22.4 (i)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sao Tome and Principe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Country	1998 Actual		1999 Provisional (a)		2000 Pledge		2001 Indication		2002 Indication	
	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$
Saudi Arabia	1,000.0	1,000.0	1,000.0	1,000.0	1,000.0	1,000.0 (g)	-	-	-	-
Senegal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Seychelles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sierra Leone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Singapore	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0 (g)	-	-	-	-
Slovakia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slovenia	500.1	3.1	347.0	2.2	681.0	3.6 (h)	-	-	-	-
Solomon Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somalia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Africa	201.8	40.2	202.7	34.5	200.0	31.7 (h)	-	-	-	-
Spain	273,137.6	1,797.0 (i)	275,000.0	1,748.2 (d)	-	- (j)	-	-	-	-
Sri Lanka	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sudan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Suriname	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swaziland	8.8	1.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sweden	250,000.0	32,056.6	265,000.0	32,939.2	280,000.0	33,174.4 (h)	280,000.0	33,174.4 (h,i)		-
Switzerland	17,000.0	12,230.2	17,000.0	12,408.8	17,000.0	10,625.0 (h)	17,000.0	10,625.0 (h,i)	17,000.0	10,625.0 (h,i)
Syrian Arab Republic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tajikistan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thailand	2,925.0	188.4 (b, k)	2,080.5	169.2 (b, k)	2,080.5	112.5 (b,g)	-	-	-	-
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Togo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tonga	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trinidad and Tobago	-	-	1.6	1.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tunisia	55.7	94.7 (e)	40.5	37.3	37.0	30.0 (g,h)	37.0	30.2 (h)	37.0	30.2 (h)
Turkey	130.0	130.0	120.0	120.0	120.0	120.0 (g,h)	-	-	-	-
Turkmenistan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuvalu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uganda	-	-	-	-	2.0	2.0 (h)	-	-	-	-
Ukraine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO REGULAR RESOURCES FOR YEARS 1998 TO 2000 AND INDICATIVE PLEDGES FOR 2001 AND 2002

Pledges received as at 2 February, 2000

(Expressed in thousands of currency pledged and in United States dollars equivalents)

(This matrix shows firm pledges and indicative pledges from member states. A number of countries -unable to make pledges at this time- indicated expectations that their contributions would exceed current levels of support. If those countries were added to the matrix at current levels of contributions, the total government contributions at current exchange rates would amount to 94.4% of the MTP projection of USD 363 millions).

Country	1998 Actual		1999 Provisional (a)		2000 Pledge		2001 Indication		2002 Indication	
	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$
United Arab Emirates	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0 (g)	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	10,000.0	16,666.7	13,000.0	21,035.6	15,000.0	24,193.5 (h)	15,000.0	24,193.5 (h,i)	15,000.0	24,193.5 (h,i)
United Republic of Tanzania	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States of America	100,000.0	100,000.0	105,000.0	105,000.0	110,000.0	110,000.0 (h)	-	-	-	-
Uruguay	-	-	30.0	30.0 (e)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uzbekistan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vanuatu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Venezuela	47.0	47.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Viet Nam	12.8	12.8	-	-	13.7	13.7 (g)	-	-	-	-
Yemen	-	-	16.7	16.7	18.4	18.4 (g,h)	-	-	-	-
Yugoslavia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Zambia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Zimbabwe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS		343,276.2		348,621.8 (a)		309,513.6		119,229.3		86,054.9
Adjustments to prior years		374.9								
TOTAL GOVERNMENTS		343,651.1		348,621.8		309,513.6		119,229.3		86,054.9

LEGEND:
- (a) Some figures may change after closing of 1999 accounts
- (b) Amount reported excludes contribution towards local costs
- (c) Additional 1998 contribution (FrF 1 Million equivalent to USD 177,870), recorded in 1999 as 1999 income
- (d) Additional Esn15 million pledged for 1999 received on 6 Jan 2000
- (e) Including funds received for prior years contributions
- (f) Subject to parliamentary approval
- (g) Pledge made during 1999 United Nations Pledging Conference
- (h) Pledge made subsequent to 199 UN Conference and/or confirmed during UNICEF Executive Board 1st Session, Feb. 2000
- (i) Tentative pledge
- (j) To be announced during fiscal year
- (k) Includes contributions made and/or paid in both currencies
- (l) Amount in local currency adjusted upon application of UN exchange rate when payment received

Annex II

Decisions adopted by the Executive Board in 2000

First regular session

Number	*Title*
2000/1.	Private Sector Division work plan and proposed budget for 2000
2000/2.	Proposals for UNICEF programme cooperation
2000/3.	Multi-year funding framework: securing adequate resources to achieve the medium term plan priorities
2000/4.	Annual report to the Economic and Social Council
2000/5.	Report on the second session of the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health

Annual session

Number	*Title*
2000/6.	Activities and budget for UNICEF secretariat support to the General Assembly Special Session on the follow-up to the World Summit for Children in 2001 and additional events
2000/7.	Modifications to the budget process
2000/8.	Report on field visits of Executive Board members
2000/9.	Follow-up to the World Summit for Children
2000/10.	UNICEF Maurice Pate Award for 2000
2000/11.	Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Second regular session

Number	*Title*
2000/12.	Proposals for UNICEF programme cooperation
2000/13.	Recommendations for additional regular resources for approved country programmes
2000/14.	Recommendation for the extension of cooperation with Rotary International for polio eradication and for the extension of the Vaccine Independence Initiative
2000/15.	Financial medium-term plan for the period 2000-2003
2000/16.	Private Sector Division financial report and statements for the years ended 31 December 1999
2000/17.	Report on internal audit activities
2000/18.	Programme of work for Executive Board sessions in 2001

First regular session

2000/1
Private Sector Division work plan and proposed budget for 2000

A. Private Sector Division budgeted expenditures for the 2000 season

The Executive Board

1. *Approves* for the fiscal year 1 January to 31 December 2000 budgeted expenditures of $93.1 million as detailed below and summarized in column II of table 7 of document E/ICEF/2000/AB/L.1:

	(In millions of United States dollars)
Commissions — field offices	2.3
Cost of goods delivered	35.4
Marketing expenditures	20.8
Support Services	19.6
Market Development Programme (MDP)	3.4
Fund-raising Development Programme (FDP)	7.1
Central and Eastern European National Committees Development Programme	0.5
Nordic Investment Programme	4.0
Total expenditures, consolidated[a]	93.1

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[a] For details, see table 2.

2. *Authorizes* the Executive Director:

(a) To incur expenditures, as summarized in column II of table 7 of document E/ICEF/2000/AB/L.1, and to increase expenditures up to the level indicated in column III of the same table should the apparent proceeds from card and product sales and/or private sector fund-raising increase to the levels indicated in column III and, accordingly, to reduce expenditures below the level indicated in column II, to the extent necessary, should the net proceeds decrease;

(b) To redeploy resources between the various budget lines (as detailed in paragraph 1 above) up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the amounts approved;

(c) To spend an additional amount between Executive Board sessions, when necessary, up to the amount caused by currency fluctuations, to implement the 2000 approved work plan.

B. Budgeted income for the 2000 season

The Executive Board

Notes that for the period 1 January to 31 December 2000, Private Sector Division (PSD) net proceeds are budgeted at $291.0 million (regular resources) as shown in column II of table 7 of document E/ICEF/2000/AB/L.1.

C. Policy issues

The Executive Board

1. *Approves* the changes in posts with a net decrease of six posts, as indicated in annexes I and III to document E/ICEF/2000/AB/L.1;

2. *Renews* MDP with $3.4 million established for 2000;

3. *Renews* FDP with $7.1 million established for 2000;

4. *Renews* the Central and Eastern National Committees Development Programme, which includes nine countries, with a budget of $0.5 million established for 2000;

5. *Establishes* the Nordic Investment Programme, which includes four countries, with a budget of $4.0 million for 2000;

6. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to incur expenditures in the 2000 fiscal period related to the cost of goods delivered (production/purchase of raw materials, cards and other products) for the 2001 fiscal year up to $37.6 million as indicated in the PSD medium-term plan (see table 6 of document E/ICEF/2000/AB/L.1).

D. Medium-term plan

The Executive Board

Approves the PSD medium-term plan as reflected in table 6 of document E/ICEF/2000/AB/L.1.

First regular session
31 January 2000

2000/2
Proposals for UNICEF programme cooperation

The Executive Board

Approves the following recommendations as summarized in document E/ICEF/2000/P/L.19:

(a) The allocation of additional regular resources in the total amount of $9,966,943 to fund the approved country programmes as follows:

Country	*Period*	*Amount*	*Approved country programme document* (E/ICEF/...)
Cambodia	2000	1 277 000	1996/P/L.51
Congo	2000	26 398	1998/P/L.25
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	2000	83 000	1998/P/L.30
Guinea	2000-2001	2 701 000	1996/P/L.12/Add.1
Iraq	2000	966 650	1998/P/L.32
Liberia	2000	293 000	1998/P/L.27
Madagascar	2000	734 023	1995/P/L.12
Rwanda	2000	549 000	1997/P/L.20
Senegal	2000-2001	2 168 000	1996/P/L.14/Add.1
Somalia	2000	1 168 872	1998/P/L.24

(b) A one-year extension of the current approved country programmes of cooperation for Egypt (E/ICEF/1994/P/L.14 and Corr.1) and Malaysia (E/ICEF/1996/P/L.28/Add.1).

First regular session
2 February 2000

2000/3
Multi-year funding framework: securing adequate resources to achieve the medium-term plan priorities

The Executive Board

1. *Endorses* the proposed timing of the presentations to the Executive Board of the various elements of the multi-year funding framework (MYFF), with due regard for the extra provisions regarding the proposed changes to the support budget (as outlined in paragraph 3 below);

2. *Affirms* the validity of the current medium-term plan to the end of 2001 and *endorses* the proposal that the next medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) be presented to the Executive Board in 2001 for a fixed period of four years (2002-2005). At that occasion, the timing of the presentation of the various elements of the MYFF to the Executive Board will also be reviewed;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit the proposed modifications to the budget process (as described in paragraphs 39 and 57 of document E/ICEF/2000/5) to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for its review and comments prior to final submission of a revised budget process to the annual session of the Executive Board in 2000, in view of the importance of flexible responses to programme and resource situations for achievement of the MTSP priorities;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit to the Executive Board, through part II of her annual report, in accordance with decision 1999/7 (E/ICEF/1999/7/Rev.1), updates, as and when necessary, of the programmatic content of the MTSP during the four-year duration.

First regular session
2 February 2000

2000/4
Annual report to the Economic and Social Council

The Executive Board

Takes note of the "Report of the Executive Director: Annual report to the Economic and Social Council" (E/ICEF/2000/4 (Part I) and Corr.1 and Corr.2), and *requests* the secretariat to transmit it, along with a summary of the comments made during the discussion, to the Economic and Social Council for consideration at its substantive session of 2000.

First regular session
3 February 2000

2000/5
Report on the second session of the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health

The Executive Board

Takes note of the report of the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health at its second session held at WHO Headquarters in Geneva on 2 and 3 December 1999 (E/ICEF/2000/7) and the recommendations contained therein.

First regular session
3 February 2000

Annual session

2000/6
Activities and budget for UNICEF secretariat support to the General Assembly Special Session on the follow-up to the World Summit for Children in 2001 and additional events

The Executive Board

Decides:

(a) That a budget of $5,400,000 from other resources is approved for the period 2000-2001, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions;

	In United States dollars
Substantive secretariat	450 000
Global advocacy for children's rights and for the special session	2 020 000
Children and youth mobilization	875 000
Civil society mobilization	1 365 000
Regional advocacy and mobilization	690 000
Total	5 400 000

(b) That this budget is an addition to the start-up funding of $2,000,000 from other resources already approved in decision 1999/12 (E/ICEF/1999/7/Rev.1);

(c) That the Executive Director provide an interim report on the use of the funds in part II of her annual report to the Executive Board at the annual session in 2001 and a final report in her annual report to the Board at the annual session in 2002.

Annual session
24 May 2000

2000/7
Modifications to the budget process

The Executive Board

1. *Reiterates* the principle that the plan drives the budget and that the support budget should not be formulated before the programme has been sufficiently articulated through the development of the master plan of operations and the draft country programme recommendation (E/ICEF/1997/12/Rev.1, decision 1997/3), thereby precluding submission of the support budget at the second regular session of the Executive Board in September;

2. *Requests* UNICEF to conduct consultations with its members and with the Committee on Conferences with a view to enabling the Executive Board to approve future biennial support budgets before the end of the preceding biennium while maintaining the principle that the plan drives the budget;

3. *Decides* that within the approved support budget appropriations, the Executive Director has the authority to adjust the support management structure to meet programme and the medium-term strategic plan priorities, with the proviso that the establishment of any post above the level of P-5 would require prior approval by the Executive Board. Any changes in the support structure in terms of the grading and number of posts will be reported in the annual report of the Executive Director to the Executive Board.

Annual session
25 May 2000

2000/8
Report on field visits of Executive Board members

The Executive Board

Takes note of the reports on the field visits of Executive Board members to Ghana and Namibia, as contained in E/ICEF/2000/CRP.5, and to China, as contained in E/ICEF/2000/CRP.6.

Annual session
25 May 2000

2000/9
Follow-up to the World Summit for Children

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the "Progress report on follow-up to the World Summit for Children" (E/ICEF/2000/11) and the overall progress being made in the implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children and its contribution to the realization of children's rights;

2. *Recognizes* that extraordinary efforts are needed to accelerate progress towards the end-decade goals and, in this context, *urges* Governments to adopt all appropriate measures, including allocation to the maximum extent of available resources for action in favour of children, and promotion of universal access to basic social services;

3. *Recognizes* that increasing challenges compromise progress in the achievement of the World Summit goals and *acknowledges* that UNICEF should continue its advocacy and direct programme work to ensure the realization of the rights of children;

4. *Urges* donor Governments which have not yet done so to reverse the decline in official development assistance in order to support efforts aimed at the achievement of the World Summit goals and universal access to basic social services, especially in those countries with greatest needs;

5. *Requests* Governments to conduct reviews at the national and subnational levels to assess progress made in the achievement of World Summit goals, including lessons learned, and to identify strategies for future action, and *invites* them to share the results of these assessments with the Secretary-General;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to advocate for and support efforts by Governments and other relevant actors in civil society to achieve the end-decade goals, within the framework of national and subnational programmes of action;

7. *Welcomes* the efforts made by UNICEF to strengthen national capacities for the collection and use of data to monitor progress towards the end-decade goals, and *encourages* the Executive Director to continue to work with Governments and other partners towards that end;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to cooperate with United Nations agencies and other partners at the international and national levels to promote the achievement of the World Summit goals and in the preparation of the special session of the General Assembly in 2001;

9. *Further requests* the Executive Director to support the Secretary-General in the preparation of his report on the end-decade review in 2001, including an overall assessment of progress achieved and lessons learned during the decade, an analysis of the main factors that have inhibited progress, an overview of remaining challenges and issues, and specific recommendations for the future;

10. *Further requests* the Executive Director to report to the Executive Board on the implementation of the present decision at the 2001 annual session.

Annual session
25 May 2000

2000/10
UNICEF Maurice Pate Award for 2000

The Executive Board

1. *Decides* to present the UNICEF Maurice Pate Award for 2000 to the Rural Family Support Organization of Jamaica;

2. *Approves* an allocation of $25,000 from regular resources for that purpose.

Annual session
25 May 2000

2000/11
Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child

The Executive Board

1. *Welcomes enthusiastically* the consensus adoption today by the General Assembly of the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to prevent the involvement of children in armed conflict and to ensure the protection of children from sale, prostitution and pornography;

2. *Encourages* Governments to ratify the two Optional Protocols at the earliest and, in that context, to consider signing/ratifying these documents at the Millennium Summit, to be held from 6 to 8 September 2000;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to support efforts by States to speedily sign and ratify the two Optional Protocols.

Annual session
25 May 2000

Second regular session

2000/12
Proposals for UNICEF programme cooperation

The Executive Board

Approves the following recommendations of the Executive Director for programme cooperation as summarized in document E/ICEF/2000/P/L.27:

(a) $129,881,000 for regular resources funding and $282,338,700 for funding from other resources for programme cooperation in Africa, as follows:

Country	*Period*	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Document E/ICEF/2000/*
Burkina Faso	2001-2005	19 140 000	19 867 000	P/L.4/Add.1
Burundi	2001	2 332 000	6 068 000	P/L.28
Chad	2001-2005	12 204 000	13 950 000	P/L.5/Add.1
Congo	2001-2002	1 878 000	5 000 000	P/L.33
Eritrea	2001	1 296 000	7 561 700	P/L.29
Ghana	2001-2005	17 165 000	42 835 000	P/L.6/Add.1
Liberia	2001-2002	2 699 000	7 000 000	P/L.34
Madagascar	2001-2003	14 344 000	12 000 000	P/L.30
Mauritius	2001-2003	1 500 000	150 000	P/L.31
Rwanda	2001-2006	14 147 000	30 000 000	P/L.1/Add.1
Somalia	2001-2003	13 793 000	54 910 000	P/L.32
Swaziland	2001-2005	3 295 000	8 000 000	P/L.2/Add.1
Uganda	2001-2005	26 088 000	74 997 000	P/L.3/Add.1

(b) $9,324,000 for regular resources funding and $49,150,000 for funding from other resources for programme cooperation in the Americas and Caribbean, as follows:

Country	*Period*	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Document E/ICEF/2000/*
Brazil	2000	-	4 100 000	P/L.35
	2001	755 000	13 900 000	P/L.35
Colombia	2000-2001	-	4 000 000	P/L.36
Guyana	2001-2005	3 275 000	1 250 000	P/L.7/Add.1
Honduras	2001	876 000	900 000	P/L.37
Peru	2001-2005	4 418 000	25 000 000	P/L.8/Add.1

(c) $221,582,000 for regular resources funding and $420,600,000 for funding from other resources for programme cooperation in Asia, as follows:

Country	*Period*	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Document E/ICEF/2000/*
Bangladesh	2001-2005	62 613 000	140 000 000	P/L.14/Add.1
Cambodia	2001-2005	15 583 000	52 200 000	P/L.9/Add.1
China	2001-2005	60 349 000	45 000 000	P/L.10/Add.1
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	2001-2003	2 761 000	9 000 000	P/L.38
East Timor	2001-2002	1 500 000	11 400 000	P/L.39
Indonesia	2001-2005	25 442 000	83 000 000	P/L.11/Add.1
Myanmar	2001-2005	33 010 000	30 000 000	P/L.12/Add.1
Viet Nam	2001-2005	20 324 000	50 000 000	P/L.13/Add.1

(d) $11,325,000 for regular resources funding and $38,000,000 for funding from other resources for programme cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States, as follows:

Country	*Period*	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Document E/ICEF/2000/*
Albania	2001-2005	3 445 000	15 000 000	P/L.15/Add.1
Georgia	2001-2005	3 380 000	7 500 000	P/L.16/Add.1
Turkey	2001-2005	4 500 000	15 500 000	P/L.17/Add.1

(e) $10,764,000 for regular resources funding and $28,492,000 for funding from other resources for programme cooperation in the Middle East and North Africa, as follows:

Country	*Period*	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Document E/ICEF/2000/*
Algeria	2001	1 085 000	800 000	P/L.40
Iraq	2001	2 453 000	10 047 000	P/L.41
Jordan	2001-2002	-	2 000 000	P/L.42
Oman	2001-2003	1 500 000	1 500 000	P/L.43
Syrian Arab Republic	2001	926 000	290 000	P/L.44
Palestinian children and women in:				
Jordan	2001-2003	600 000	600 000	P/L.45
Lebanon	2001-2003	1 050 000	1 500 000	P/L.45
Syrian Arab Republic	2001-2003	600 000	355 000	P/L.45
West Bank and Gaza	2001-2003	2 550 000	11 400 000	P/L.45

Second regular session
18 September 2000

2000/13
Recommendations for additional regular resources for approved country programmes

The Executive Board

Approves the allocation of additional regular resources in the total amount of $41,660,204 to fund the approved country programmes, summarized in document E/ICEF/2000/P/L.46, as follows:

Region/country	*Period*	*Amount*	*Approved country programme document* (E/ICEF/...)
Eastern and Southern Africa			
Malawi	2001	2 404 992	1996/P/L.3/Add.1
Mozambique	2001	3 067 702	1998/P/L.23
South Africa	2001	32 164	1996/P/L.6/Add.1
United Republic of Tanzania	2001	3 458 514	1996/P/L.7/Add.1
Zambia	2001	1 812 890	1996/P/L.8/Add.1
West and Central Africa			
Cameroon	2001-2002	2 457 567	1997/P/L.1/Add.1
Central African Republic	2001	767 578	1996/P/L.9/Add.1
Côte d'Ivoire	2001	1 882 468	1996/P/L.10/Add.1
Mali	2001-2002	5 562 558	1997/P/L.3/Add.1
Nigeria	2001	13 041 846	1996/P/L.13/Add.1
Togo	2001	674 000	1996/P/L.15/Add.1
Americas and the Caribbean			
Paraguay	2001	38 000	1999/P/L.26
East Asia and the Pacific			
Malaysia	2001	54 428	1996/P/L.28/Add.1
Mongolia	2001	276 494	1996/P/L.29/Add.1
Pacific Island countries	2001	732 893	1996/P/L.30/Add.1
South Asia			
Nepal	2001	1 110 527	1996/P/L.32/Add.1
Central and Eastern Europe/ Commonwealth of Independent States/Baltic States			
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2001	27 000	1998/P/L.35
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2001	36 313	1998/P/L.38
Middle East and North Africa			
Morocco	2001	514 874	1996/P/L.37/Add.1
Sudan	2001	2 922 392	1996/P/L.39/Add.1
Yemen	2001	785 004	1998/P/L.33

Second regular session
18 September 2000

2000/14

Recommendation for the extension of cooperation with Rotary International for polio eradication and for the extension of the Vaccine Independence Initiative

The Executive Board

1. *Approves* a five-year extension of the programme of cooperation with the PolioPlus programme of Rotary International for the period 2001 to 2005, in accordance with the terms of the original Board document (E/ICEF/1990/P/L.35), and an increase of $20 million in funding from other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions from Rotary International, as contained in E/ICEF/2000/P/L.47;

2. *Approves* a five-year extension of the Vaccine Independence Initiative for the period 2001 to 2005, in accordance with the terms of the original Board document (E/ICEF/1991/P/L.41), with an increase in funding from other resources in the amount of $10 million, for a total of $20 million, as contained in E/ICEF/2000/P/L.47.

Second regular session
19 September 2000

2000/15

Financial medium-term plan for the period 2000-2003

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the medium-term plan (MTP) (E/ICEF/2000/AB/L.5 and Corr.1) as a flexible framework for supporting UNICEF programmes;

2. *Approves* the MTP as a framework of projections for 2000-2003 (summarized in table 5), including the preparation of up to $640 million in programme expenditures from regular resources to be submitted to the Executive Board in 2001 (shown in table 4, item 3). The amount is subject to the availability of resources and to the condition that estimates of income and expenditure made in this plan continue to be valid.

Second regular session
19 September 2000

2000/16

Private Sector Division financial report and statements for the year ended 31 December 1999

The Executive Board

Takes note of the report on "Private Sector Division: financial report and statements for the year ended 31 December 1999" (E/ICEF/2000/AB/L.6).

Second regular session
20 September 2000

2000/17
Report on internal audit activities

The Executive Board

Takes note of the report on "Internal audit activities in 1999" (E/ICEF/2000/AB/L.7).

Second regular session
20 September 2000

2000/18
Programme of work for Executive Board sessions in 2001

The Executive Board

Adopts the following programme of work for Executive Board sessions in 2001, contained in document E/ICEF/2000/15, as amended orally:

First regular session (22-26 January)	• Report of the Executive Director (Part I): Annual report to the Economic and Social Council (1995/5, 1998/1, 1999/6) • Country notes (1995/8) • Private Sector Division (PSD) work plan and proposed budget for 2001 (1998/1) • Pledging event • Update on the preparatory process for the General Assembly Special Session on Children in 2001 • Financial matters:[a] • (a) UNICEF financial report and statements for the biennium ended 31 December 1999 and report of the Board of Auditors • (b) Report to the United Nations Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions • UNICEF Maurice Pate Award for 2001 • Joint meeting with the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA and WFP

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[a] Deferred from the second regular session in September 2000.

Annual session
(4-8 June)

- Report of the Executive Director (Part II) (1999/7, 1999/8, 2000/6)
- Follow-up to the World Summit for Children (2000/9)
- Update on the preparatory process for the General Assembly Special Session on Children in 2001
- Ensuring children's rights to survival, development and protection in Africa (1995/18)
- Summary of mid-term reviews and major evaluations of country programmes (1995/8)
- Report on immunization, including the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization
- Report on the third meeting of the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health
- Sector-wide approaches
- Field visits of Executive Board members

Second regular session
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- UNICEF proposals for programme cooperation (1995/8)
- Oral report on decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council (1995/38 and E/ICEF/1995/9/Rev.1, para. 470)
- Medium-term strategic plan for 2002-2005 (2000/3)
- UNICEF recovery policy (E/ICEF/1999/7/Rev.1, para. 370)
- PSD financial report and statements for the year ended 31 December 2000
- Interim financial report and statements for the year ended 31 December 2000, the first year of the biennium 2000-2001
- Internal audit activities (1997/28)
- Report on the eighth meeting of the UNESCO/UNICEF Joint Committee on Education, including the report of the President of the Executive Board on the meeting (1995/4)
- Programme of work for 2002

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E/ICEF/2000/8/Rev.1